Hafa Adai!

Bill to extend grace period to pay CUC bills, nix disconnection fee now law. » PAGE 3

House passes bill allowing PSS to borrow up to $5M from USDA. » PAGE 13

Saipan Tribune

4 DAYS BEFORE Christmas

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXV, Issue No. 252

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Airport back to daytime ops

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Airport runway lighting system still problematic

The Francisco C. Ada/ Saipan International Airport is back to daytime operations only after experiencing problems with its runway electrical lighting system once again, mere weeks after being fixed. The limited hours of operation has resulted in airlines rescheduling their nighttime flights into daytime ones.

See AIRPORT on Page 4

Guerrero

Demapan

Speakership turnover still a go

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To honor the verbal compromise that broke the deadlock between the 19th House of Representatives on inauguration day, House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) reiterated that they will switch places come January 2016, with Demapan taking ownership of the speaker's gavel.

Deleon Guerrero won the speakership on a vote of 11-9 with the support of Demapan and his six NMI Republican Party mates against Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb.

See SPEAKERSHIP on Page 4

CHRISTMAS IN THE MARIANAS FESTIVAL

NMIS is top winner; Chacha repeats in float contest

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Chacha Oceanview Middle School successfully defended their title in the Best Float category but Northern Marianas International School went home with the most number of awards during last Saturday's 2015 Christmas in the Marianas Festival at the Paseo de

See NMIS on Page 4

JON PEREZ

The winning entry of Chacha Oceanview Middle School in the float competition turns to Micro Beach Road during the parade held last Saturday that started at the Garapan Fishing Base. Other photo, Northern Marianas International School vice principal Jener Pineda, second left, joins students and teachers in receiving the grand prize in the elementary division of the Christmas tree making contest.

See more photos on Page 15

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The Marine Corps Reserves' Toys for Tots Program in Guam delivers toys to Tinian.

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WORLD

In their meeting with President Obama, victim families share tears and stories.

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LIFE & STYLE

"Star Wars " has surpassed $100 million in America and $250 million globally.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Judge orders OAG to produce 'missing' DPS manual, handbook

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has ordered the government to produce alleged missing documents related to the Department of Public Safety manual and handbook.

Camacho gave the government until Dec. 30, 2015, to turn over the DPS documents to Zhen Bin Li, who is facing traffic charges.

Li, through counsel Claire Kelleher-Smith, is requesting various DPS manuals and handbooks that the government claims exists but that the Commonwealth cannot locate.

The first handbook is related to DPS procedures for the arrest and chemical testing of suspects, collecting physical evidence, issuing traffic citations, conducting interrogations, as well as the standards used for promoting and demoting officers.

The government, through assistant attorney general Emily Cohen, states that there are no policies, protocols, or procedures written that Li is seeking.

The second handbook is a manual related to the government's expert testimony of the headlight.

According to the government, "there is a manual that DPS has been trying to locate for nearly three months regarding the expert testimony of the headlight."

In his order to produce documents, Camacho said the court is concerned that DPS has misplaced the handbook related to police procedures, as well as material that will be relied upon by an expert witness.

Camacho noted that documents that are within DPS possession but have not yet been located are different from items that are completely outside of government control.

The alleged missing handbook and manual is among the issues that Camacho resolved in Li's traffic case.

According to court papers, Li was involved in a traffic accident on Chalan Pale Arnold Road near Twins Supermarket on Feb. 13, 2015.

He was cited for failing to activate headlights, reckless driving, driving while under the influence of alcohol, and failing to use a seatbelt.

Last Oct. 27, Li filed his motion to compel discovery, stating that the government had provided no additional discovery since the July 2, 2015, motion hearing date.

In the government's response, the OAG stated that it provided additional discovery on Oct. 27, 2015, including the citation, the traffic report, as well as 37 additional pages of discovery, two constitutional rights form, a copy of Li's driver's license, a suspect interview, and medical records.

The government has subsequently provided additional discovery to Li, resolving several of the issues raised in his motion to compel discovery.

In his order last week, Camacho resolved the DPS manual and handbook issue.

Camacho also resolved the other issues: materials related to Li's blood test; whether the government must review personnel files of the officers involved in the case; the officers' modus operandi; and other accidents that occurred at the same location.

On the blood test matter, Li is requesting materials related to his blood and chemical tests conducted.

The OAG states it has turned over the testing materials that it has in its possession, and any remaining material is not in the government's possession.

Camacho said a DPS officer took Li to the Commonwealth Heath Center to conduct a blood test. He said any materials related to the testing at CHC that are in CHC's possession must be disclosed to Li.

On personnel files matter, Camacho said the government must review the personnel files of the testifying officers upon Li's request.

On the modus operandi issue, Li requests evidence of the officers' modus operandi, which would include "police officers' reports for offenses for a period beginning 10 days before the alleged offense in this case, and ending 10 days after the traffic citation was issued," together with the contact information of the alleged offenders and witnesses in those cases.

The government opposes this request, citing, among other reasons, privacy concerns.

Camacho said the government must turn over modus operandi evidence found in its review of personnel files, but it need not turn over the requested police reports and offender/witness information.

Camacho said the traffic citations requested by Li are public record so the defense counsel or a defense investigator may view recent traffic case citations at the clerk of court.

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A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Benjefe VIP Golf Championship

Benjefe VIP Golf Championship was held on Nov. 28, 2015, at **LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort**.

The golf tournament was held with Korean celebrity **Jungju Ho**, also the CEO of self-named golf wear brand **Benjefe**. The tournament, supported by the Marianas Visitors Authority through its golf tournament incentive program, aimed to raise awareness of the Northern Marianas as an ideal destination for golf and to encourage travel agencies specializing in golf travel to choose the Northern Marianas as a tournament destination.

The tournament attracted 104 participants, handled by travel agency **Leaders Travel**.

Saipan Tinian Rota

HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

Bill to extend grace period to pay CUC bills, remove disconnection fee now law

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CNMI power consumers now have a little more time to pay their electric utilities after a bill extending the grace period from 21 to 30 days was signed into law last Friday by acting governor Ralph DLG Torres.

House Bill 19-51, which is now Public Law 19-27, also removes the $15 disconnection notice fee of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to power consumers who fall behind in their payment of utility bills.

Authored by Rep. Francis S. Taimanao (Ind-Saipan), H.B. 19-51 passed the House last June 14 after being referred to the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications. It subsequently got the nod of the Senate last Nov. 3 without amendments.

According to the bill's findings, "The Legislature finds that there are residents of our great Commonwealth that struggle to pay for their utility services, many of whom are dependent on government assistance such as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Social Security, and disability benefits in order to pay for such services."

Unfortunately, the measure said, "the financial assistance received by these residents only occur on a monthly basis while the given grace period before disconnection after the billing date is only 21 days."

The removal of CUC's Disconnection Notice-Electric Fee of $15, meanwhile, will take effect upon approval by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

The signing of the bill into law was well received by the islands' power consumers.

Anastasia Scott of San Vicente said this is the right move, considering the hardships people of the community went through the past several months, most especially after the onslaught of Typhoon Soudelor.

"I think they should give an extra month for people to pay because most of those that are behind on paying I'm sure have such a very tight budget each month that they need to save little by little," she said.

Scott suggested that CUC come up with a repayment plan where a customer adds $20 to each month's bill.

"In the repayment plan, as long as a customer is paying their current bill in full and paying an agreed upon amount for their overdue balance, power wouldn't be shut off," she said.

Marianas High School's Jim Feger is also on board with the new law because it essentially buys time for people to make payments on their utility bills.

"That would give a person two paycheck periods to make a payment. And if a person was disconnected for non-payment, then there would be no $15 reconnection fee if that person was able to make full payment. OK, if that is the case, I'm not against that policy. So, the [acting] governor is making a statement, 'Don't penalize someone who is too poor pay their CUC bill.' I'm OK with that!" he said.

For Marylyn Montano of Gualo Rai, the new law is definitely good news for CNMI power consumers.

"They're giving us more time to pay our CUC bills and we can avoid disconnection of power. We are happy that no more $15 connection fee. Thank you [acting] governor for signing the bill," she said.

Ernie Moises of Garapan shared Montano's gratitude to the administration of Gov. Eloy S. Inos for the bill's passage into law, especially in light of Soudelor.

"That's good because a lot of people until now have not yet recovered from all the damage left by Typhoon Soudelor. The government did the right thing. I really appreciate the law's passage."

Boat captain and local mixed martial arts promoter Justis "Cuki" Alvarez, however, thinks that there may be some ulterior motive to the passage of the bill.

"Some people will love it and some will not care. Those who will welcome it are those who are desperate or are looking for free hand outs. Others will ask, why the new bill? What's the purpose? Is it a way to lure us into supporting their plans (whatever that may be) by going out of their way to help the people? A lot of crazy arbitrary rules happening lately up on the [Capital] Hill..." he told *Saipan Tribune*.

CRM FINES A TOURIST
Last Monday, the CNMI Division of Coastal Resource Management fined a tourist $1,000 for driving a rented pickup truck on Laolao beach. The tourist was discovered on the north shoreline taking wedding photographs in deep water. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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JKPL celebrates 24 years in the CNMI

Dozens of children and library enthusiasts gathered at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library last Saturday to show their support and help celebrate the library's 24th anniversary.

The lineup of events included storytelling with local authors, grounds beatification, Christmas caroling, raffle prizes, and book sales that highlighted the library's role in promoting literacy and a sense of community.

Acting JKPL director Erlinda Naputi said the library is a lasting educational investment of indigenous entrepreneurs Jose Camacho Tenorio and Manuel Seman Villagomez who built the facility in 1991.

"We are truly blessed…for all the assistance throughout [the 24 years]. Prior to [1991], we didn't have a public library but because of their hard work and dedication we have a library—the best library in the Pacific," she said.

This year, the library focused on recovering from Typhoon Soudelor. With the assistance of the Division of Forestry, 100 plants were donated to beautify the library grounds.

Soledad Tenorio, a granddaughter of Jose Tenorio and the library council's treasurer, said the library's 24 years symbolizes many milestones.

"I know if my grandfather was alive today, he would be very happy to see how far the library has come and how hardworking the staff is in keeping the library alive. It's been hard in the last few years but I give a lot of credit to the volunteers and all the staff who've been working overtime to keep the library alive, especially after the typhoon. With Erlinda at the helm…I really think that 2016 will be a good year for us," she said.

Technical Services librarian Rosalyn Ajoste said that libraries are the greatest equalizer of society.

"Libraries are a place where people can come and get an informal education. Historically, libraries were known as the poor man's university since the library exists to promote literacy and reading for enjoyment. It's a place where people can come and check out resources free of charge," she said. "All you need is a library card."

The library has 70,000 items for the public to choose from, 16,000 alone for the children's section and an IT center that helps bridge the digital divide for those looking to improve their 21st century skills.

Also at the celebration were acting governor Ralph DLG Torres, his wife Diann, Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Richard Seman, Agriculture director Manuel Tenorio, the Department of Corrections Christmas carolers, Best Sunshine International, Ltd. representatives, Petey Pablo and the Matua Riders.

The library is open from Tuesday to Friday at 10am to 6pm and Saturday from 9am to 4pm.

For more information about the library, call 235- 7318 or log on to marianaslibrary.org. ***(Daisy Demapan)***

DAISY DEMAPAN

Acting governor Ralph DGL Torres and Jose Tenorio's granddaughter take part in a ceremonial cake cutting for 24th anniversary of the Joeten Kiyu Public Library on Saturday.

DAISY DEMAPAN

Diann Torres reads her published children's book on Saturday. Here, she asks the kids how many of them love to read.

NMIS

From Page 1

Marianas.

Chacha's float entry aboard a 40-foot trailer stood out among the entries. It was colorfully adorned with boxes of gifts, toys, candy canes, and a Christmas tree while kids were dressed as toy soldiers or Santa's Little Helpers.

Chacha's winning entry last year was an island floral-themed Christmas float.

This year, the Kagman-based school was the runaway winner with the judges giving them 93 points against the 65 and 63 of NMIS and Koblerville Elementary School

Kagman Elementary School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, Marianas High School, and NMIS elementary received consolation prizes in the float contest.

NMIS, however, stole the show as they collected a total cash prize of more than $8,000 built around two top finishes, two runner up position, and one third place.

NMIS ruled the Christmas tree making contest in the elementary division, which has a $5,000 cash prize donated by RNC Construction through an education tax credit. Its middle school students then topped the caroling competition.

Green Meadow School and Mt. Carmel School finished second and third in the Christmas tree elementary division.

NMIS middle school beat Chacha by two points as the former earned 60 against the latter's 58. Hopwood Middle School was a distant third with 42.

NMIS also had second place finishes in the tree making and float (middle school) while its elementary students came in third in the Christmas caroling contest.

NMIS vice principal Jener Pineda said the money will help in the daily operations of their school and will also be used to support their students who will be joining off-island academic competitions.

"This is only our second time to join since the school is only on its third year. Last year we finished second in the Christmas tree competition. I thank the overwhelming support of the administration staff, teachers, and the parents," said Pineda.

"The money will be a big help for our operations and for school improvement and other facilities. Plus some of the money will also be used by the students in several competitions like the regional spelling bee in Guam."

MHS ruled the middle and high school division of the Christmas tree contest with Chacha coming in at third. Both winning trees—MHS and NMIS (elementary)—will be displayed at the lobby of the Francisco C. Ada International Airport.

Green Meadow (elementary) and Saipan Southern High School had the most number of participants in Health Walk while MHS and Koblerville Elementary School topped the Christmas costumes category.

SSHS, Kagman High School, and MHS were 1-2-3 in the Christmas caroling contest while Oleai Elementary School, which sang a capella, beat Koblerville Elementary School by one point (58-57).

NMIS (47), San Vicente Elementary School (45), Green Meadows (42), Kagman Elementary School (38), and WST (36) complete the list in the Christmas carol contest.

All winners will have one year of bragging rights to become the first winners of the perpetual trophy, which will be returned for next year's competitions.

KKMP radio, KKMP Foundation, Marianas Visitors Authority, Team PDI, Friends of Paseo de Marianas, Best Sunshine CSR team, CHCC-DPH-Community Guidance Center, Kan Pacific-Mariana Resort & Spa, DCCA-Division of Youth Service, DPS-DDD-DPS CIOT, G4S, Honest Profit LLC, Department of Commerce–ABTC, DLNR Fish & Wildlife, BECQ-Coastal Resources Management Division, IT&E, T Galleria DFS, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Bridge Capital, Docomo Pacific, DPS Boating Safety, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Skywalker Communications Group, Kanoa Resort, CHCC-DPH-MCH, Bank of Saipan, DCCA Arts Council, Joeten Enterprises, Commonwealth Office of Transport Authority, CHCC-DPH-NCD, MARPAC, Dial Rent-to-Own, Pacifica Insurance, Saipan Awadori, Saipan Domatsuri, DPL, DPS, DFEMS, and DPW were the sponsors and partners of the 14th edition of the annual event.

AIRPORT

From Page 1

According to Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Maryann Lizama, she was alerted around midnight last Friday by operations supervisor Jack Kileleman that a flight could not land because only 30 percent of the runway was lit.

Lizama said that even with the navigational aids, landing was unsafe for the plane, an Airbus 330.

"A safety call was made to have the aircraft diverted to Guam because we were going to issue a NOTAM [notice to airmen] imposing the daylight flight operations only," she said.

Two Asiana Airlines were also diverted to Guam and the airport then began shutting down the runway electrical system to preserve and avoid circuit shorting, fluctuations and especially burning out the entire electrical system. "We informed the airlines, federal and local partners, and the ground handlers of the NOTAM and they were able to schedule their flights for daylight operations," she said. "After the last daylight flight operation, the Commonwealth Ports Authority had begun work on engaging with electrical firms to conduct an overall assessment of the entire airport lighting system and make repairs and/or upgrades. Unfortunately, the lighting system failed once again," she said.

Lizama noted that the repairs that were completed did not pinpoint the exact problem, which prompted CPA to address the need to bring in an electrical firm that specializes in such services.

She said that CPA board chair Jose Lifoifoi approved the emergency procurement of services to find a company that specializes in electrical systems and to authorize the provisional hiring of two electricians for repairs.

"This will address our needs long term. At its immediacy, Richard Cabrera from Guam will be heading back our way to work on the lighting system," she said.

Cabrera has been troubleshooting and conducting repairs over the weekend.

"The Commonwealth Ports Authority realizes and recognizes the need to address and resolve the matter expeditiously. We ask that the public please contact their respective airlines for flight schedules," she said.

SPEAKERSHIP

From Page 1

The same 11 votes are expected to play a factor in the turnover for speakership. They are Reps. Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Edwin Aldan (Ind-Saipan), Francis S. Taimanao (Ind-Saipan), Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan), John Paul P. Sablan (R-Saipan), George Camacho (R-Saipan), Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), Joseph "Leepan" T. Guerrero (R-Saipan), Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan), Glenn L. Maratita (R-Saipan), and Deleon Guerrero.

After twelve months of being the speaker, Deleon Guerrero said that Demapan should be prepared to take over the helm.

"Many people felt that I should continue as speaker but I'm going to keep my word. We wouldn't have had a leadership without that agreement taking place. I'm going to honor my part of the bargain, along with my [constituents]," he said.

"In this leadership we discuss what our priorities are. We continue to build concession and move forward. We agreed to share leadership and at the time it was just a matter of who would go first. We are nearing that one year mark and we will call for a reorganizational meeting soon," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said his priorities continue to be improving the economic situation of the CNMI, protecting retirees, regulating the casino industry, and promoting education.

"Another priority as a speaker is to pass a balanced budget but due to Typhoon Soudelor and the fiber optic situation, we had to protect against scrupulous business practices that postponed the timely passage of the budget. The Legislature is often in crisis management mode and it's been a challenge," he said.

Talking in terms of the casino bill, "it continues to be a controversial issue. After much debate we got the gaming commission bill passed to regulate the industry. Although contentious, it's for the protection of the people."

Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* he is looking forward to the speakership in order to guide the Legislature on issues affecting retirees, medical referral, and public lands.

"Finding revenues to keep government programs well-funded is always a priority. …We have to stay focused on the retirement issue, the hospital, public safety, and education. I will continue to work with all the members of the House as well as the Senate to address issues affecting the Commonwealth and I thank them for their patience as we charter the course of the CNMI," he said.

According to the rules of the House of Representatives, the speaker presides over meetings, calls the House to order, decides all points of order, and interprets the House rules and has the sole authority to assign or remove a chairperson of a standing committee.

With election year coming up, the needed votes for speakership and upcoming bills can still steer in different directions.

US govt seeks default judgment vs Dynasty's $2.5M

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government has requested the federal court to issue an entry of default against the $2.5 million that the owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino has agreed to pay as part of a $3.03 million settlement of a criminal case.

Assistant U.S. attorney Russell H. Lorfing, counsel for the U.S. government, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Friday to issue a default judgment against the $2.5 million for failing to contest the forfeiture action.

Lorfing also filed Friday his affidavit supporting the court clerk's entry of default judgment.

In the affidavit, Lorfing said the U.S. government filed last Aug. 21, 2015 a complaint for forfeiture, alleging that Tinian Dynasty's $2.5 million should be forfeited to the U.S. government.

The U.S. government's notice of this forfeiture action was published for 30 days starting Sept. 18, 2015, on an official U.S. government website.

Pursuant to the law, Lorfing said, any claimant of the property was required to file a claim no later than 35 days after the written notice was sent on Aug. 21, 2015, or 60 days after the first publication of notice on Sept. 18.

"Those time periods expired on Sept. 26, 2015, and Nov. 18, 2015 respectively, and no extensions to these time limits have been requested, consented to, or granted by this court," Lorfing said.

Notice of the forfeiture action was also published in the *Saipan Tribune* and *Marianas Variety* and anyone who wanted to claim a right to the $2.5 million must file a response within 30 days of publication.

"The time period to assert an interest in the property expired on Nov. 4, 2015," Lorfing said.

Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd., owner of Tinian Dynasty, gave the $2.5 million to the U.S. government in the form of a check last July 23 pursuant to their non-prosecution deal.

The new owners of Hong Kong Entertainment and the U.S. government have agreed not to prosecute the criminal case against HKE in exchange for HKE's forfeiture of $3.03 million.

Last July, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed the criminal charges against HKE at the U.S. government's request.

The parties entered into a non-prosecution agreement that requires Tinian Dynasty to forfeit $3,036,969.12. HKE has already made a payment of $2.5 million to the U.S. government.

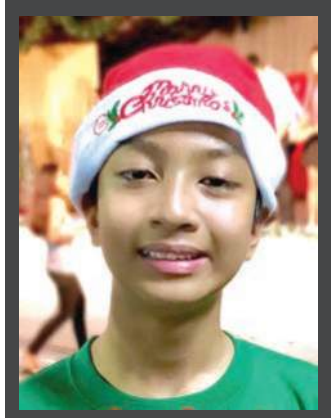
The U.S. government filed in November last year 158 criminal charges against HKE related to the casino's failure to file currency transaction reports or CTR.

HKE recently filed in federal court a Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition, claiming that it has total assets of $55.2 million, but its total liabilities reach $258.5 million.

HKE counsel Timothy H. Bellas disclosed that one of the first priorities of the case will be to ask the bankruptcy court for permission to pay the unpaid salaries of Tinian Dynasty employees and unpaid taxes both federal and local.

Bellas said the purpose of Chapter 11 is not to go out of business but to continue doing so.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy 12th birthday to Kalvin Carl! We love you! Greetings come from Mom, Dad, Arron and family.

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Kia Cadenza Premium retail price $35,995 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $570.20 or $263.17 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $34,212.00.

House honors first SAES principal

MARK RABAGO
San Antonio Elementary School's first principal, Francisco Mendiola Sablan, is presented with a resolution by the House of Representatives last Wednesday for his many years of loyal service to the field of education in the CNMI. Handing him the resolution plaque is Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan) in front of Sablan's family and supporters.

The House of Representatives last Wednesday presented San Antonio Elementary School's very first principal, Francisco Mendiola Sablan, with a resolution honoring and commending him for his many years of loyal service to the field of education in the CNMI.

With his family, friends, and supporters in attendance, Sablan thanked the 19th House of Representatives and the resolution's author, Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan), for the honor bestowed on him.

One of the first people to congratulate the longtime educator was former House floor leader Ana Teregeyo, who was one of Sablan's former students.

Sablan was SAES' first ever principal and he held the post from 1971 to 1985. Prior to becoming principal of the San Antonio school, he taught at the Chalan Kanoa School and also served as teacher education supervisor assistant.

He also had a stint as a lawmaker in the Mariana Island District Legislature from 1966 to 1968. After his two-year service at the district congress, Sablan worked as director of Personnel Services for the Department of Education from 1968 to 1971. He returned to the same position after retiring from SAES from 1985 to 1987.

His educational background is as follows: Fingley School (now William S. Reyes Elementary School) from 1945 to 1952; Saipan Intermediate School from 1952 to 1955; Pacific Island Central School in Truk Islands (through a scholarship from the U.S. Navy) from 1955 to 1958; and extension courses at the University of Guam and San Jose State University.

Prior to taking the principal post at SAES, Sablan received a scholarship to attend the University of Hawaii's School Administration for Principalship.

Sablan is married to Ana Palacios Sablan and the couple has eight children. ***(Mark Rabago)***

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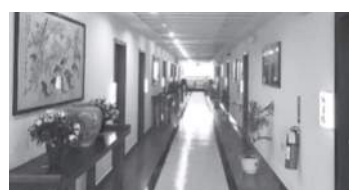

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exact location & building details
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Torres' road to healthy habits: Taking the first step

Author's note: The Saipan Tribune *will follow Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres in his journey to a healthier lifestyle in its newest biweekly series.*

It's a new year's resolution many make but seldom keep: living a healthier lifestyle. Acting governor Ralph Torres plans to break that with a project he's calling his "road to healthy habits." Torres is taking on the challenge to improve his every day habits and reduce his health risks, and wants the people of the CNMI to join him in his journey.

Torres has enlisted the help of Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. public health planner Kaitlyn Neises, who told *Saipan Tribune* that Torres' focus will be on learning how to make healthy choices a part of everyday living on the islands.

Torres said he will begin his journey in January, immediately after the holiday season. The Division of Public Health, NMC-CREES, and the Lets' Move Marianas Alliance will work with him and broadcast biweekly half-hour episodes featuring his progress in establishing long-term healthy habits.

"Everything about this challenge is going to be hard," he said. "Sometimes I go to as many as four to five social gatherings a day and that affects my diet"—a diet that he said has caused him to become overweight ever since he was a child, since eating processed meat is part of the culture.

"I want to live longer and help promote a culture where people learn how to eat in portions," he said

Torres recognizes that many people buy canned food because of its affordability, but it is also high in sodium. He urges the community to take the first step with him in creating a plan that curtails the intake of those products.

"My entire family will be a part of this and we will cook better and healthier food at home. They will really be my support system in everything I do," he added.

CNMI residents will get an in-depth look at Torres' journey through social media, where the episodes will be published starting in January throughout February.

They first episode will establish the acting governor's baselines and goals, followed by discussion ranging from making time for physical activity to eating at family gatherings.

The episodes will be shot by NMC students under the Youth Empowerment Alliance for Health, which will be hosted by one of its members, along with Chailang Palacios.

The series is expected to include special guests, such as local farmers, fishermen, and dietitians.

With the House of Representatives passing a tax on sugar-sweetened drinks last weekend, Torres said that creating a healthier Commonwealth involves both policy and lifestyle changes.

Torres' journey comes at a time when 30 percent of children in the CNMI are overweight and obese. By making his journey public, Torres hopes to reduce the grim statistics substantially. ***(Thomas A. Manglona II)***

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Judge OKs 3 lawyers as Fund hearing officers, another lawyer as arbitrator

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood has approved the appointment of three attorneys as administrative hearing officers and another lawyer as an arbitrator for the NMI Retirement Fund.

Tydingco-Gatewood granted the request of NMI Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C.H. Tang to approve the appointment of attorneys Maya Kara, Josh Berger, and Leevin Camacho as administrative hearing officers, as well as the appointment of attorney Richard Johnson as arbitrator.

During her report about the Settlement Fund last week, Tang informed Tydingco-Gatewood about the Fund's selection of Kara, Berger, Camacho, and Johnson.

The Settlement Fund posted announcements for the administrative hearing officer and arbitrator positions.

After interviewing candidates, Tang said the four lawyers were selected based on their qualifications, availability, and experience, to assist with administrative proceedings.

The judge also approved the NMI Settlement Fund's Administrative Appeal Rules and Procedures, as well as the Fee Schedule. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Ex-convict arrested again, this time for allegedly using forged check

James Anthony Palacios Webb, who was convicted in April for stealing a gas credit card and useing it to by gas and other items, was arrested again on Thursday, this time for allegedly checking in at a hotel using a forged check in the amount of $319.25.

Webb, 24, also allegedly admitted to receiving several blank checks from Summer Holiday Hotel and writing at least seven checks amounting to over $400 at different stores on Saipan.

At a hearing on Friday, the court maintained Webb's $6,000 cash bail. Preliminary hearing will be on Dec. 23 at 9am.

According to a complaint filed by police detective Daniel T. Joab, police arrested Webb after the Paradise Hotel reported last Wednesday that the suspect checked in using a bad check.

Camacho

Joab said investigation showed that Webb checked in at the Paradise Hotel last Dec. 12 at 4am. The suspect used a check from Summer Holiday Hotel to pay for a room, but the staff at Paradise learned later that Webb was not an employee of Summer Holiday Hotel and that the check had been forged.

According to the hotel staff who received the check, Webb showed his driver's license in presenting the check.

Webb was with two male companions at that time, the hotel staff said.

Police recovered from Webb a key for his room at the Paradise Hotel.

Webb identified his male companion, who allegedly stayed with him in the hotel room for two to three days.

Last April, Webb pleaded guilty to a count of theft as part of a plea deal with the government. Associate Judge Joseph Camacho sentenced Webb to the full maximum of one year in prison, the first two months to be served day for day without the possibility of parole. Webb was given credit for 69 days of time served. He was placed on supervised probation for three years.

In that case, Webb stole the credit card of the KZNM/KCMI radio station in January last year and purchased gas and other items in the amount of $94.21 at Shell Highway Express in Gualo Rai. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-16-002

Typhoon Soudelor Disaster Recovery Project - CUC Central Warehouse Repairs

The Office of the Executive Director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for repairs at CUC Central Warehouse in Lower Base, Saipan. As this project is time sensitive, contractors shall ensure that they have a good understanding of the project prior to making their bid proposal to avoid protracted contract discussion that will result in a successful expedited contract award to the selected Offeror.

The Scope of Work and Solicitation Package will be emailed upon request, by CUC Procurement & Supply Office from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except on government observed holidays, **until December 15, 2015**. Prospective proponents for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division no later than 2:00 p.m. on December 15, 2015 in order to be considered.

A **mandatory Pre-proposal Conference** will be conducted at the Warehouse Building in Lower Base, Saipan on **December 15, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., ChST.** Immediately after the conference, Site Visits to Warehouse facility will be arranged. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC Central Warehouse Repairs, CUC-RFP-16-002" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **December 31, 2015 at 10:00 AM,** local time. Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A Proposal Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying

labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of proponents' preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Proponents shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proponents.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. local time on **December 21, 2015,** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, CUC P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950 via email: manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Assistant, Procurement Division via email: marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective proposers who have registered for the solicitation with CUC procurement division.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Bid in the interest of the Corporation. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

JOHN RIEGEL
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
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Request for Proposals
15-JUDICIARY-03
Janitorial Services for the Guma Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewee, House of Justice

The Commonwealth Judicial Branch is soliciting sealed proposals for janitorial services for the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewee/House of Justice, Saipan, for a period of one (1) year.

Firms or individuals submitting proposals must have a valid CNMI business license and be in compliance with applicable local and federal laws and regulations, including minimum wage requirements.

Proposal procedures shall comply with CNMI Procurement Regulations (NMIAC Title 70, Subchapter 30.3).

The proposal package will be available on **December 14, 2015** at the Cashier's Window, Guma Hustisia, Saipan, or by request faxed to (670) 236-9702 or emailed to juandiego.tenorio@justice.gov.mp.

A pre-proposal meeting will be held on **December 22, 2015 at 10:30 a.m.,** local time at the Guma Husistia Atrium Conference Room. Any questions or inquiries shall be directed to Mr. Gerald Weaver, Building Superintendent and shall only be answered at the mandatory pre-proposal meeting. Any questions or inquiries not raised at the mandatory pre-proposal meeting shall not be answered and shall be disregarded.

Sealed proposals must be marked **RFP15-JUDICIARY-03** and submitted in one (1) original and three (3) copies at the Cashier's Window, Guma Hustisia, Saipan no later than **December 28, 2015, local time, 10:00 a.m.** Proposals must expressly state that the price offered is good for a one (1) year period. Firms or individuals submitting proposals from outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose to the Budget and Finance Director no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, December 28, 2015.** Notices of Intent may be faxed to (670) 236-9702 or emailed to juandiego.tenorio@justice.gov.mp. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and three (3) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **December 28, 2015,** AND the proposal must be received at the Office of the Budget and Finance Director no later than **January 4, 2016, close of business.**

The CNMI Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI Government. All proposals received shall become the property of the CNMI Government and will not be returned to the proposer.

/s/ Alexandro C. Castro
Chief Justice

/s/ Juan Diego V. Tenorio
Budget and Finance Director

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Versatility, experience are hallmarks of NMC faculty

Faculty members of the Northern Marianas College's Social Sciences and Fine Arts Department, from left, Tim Baker, Eugene Foels, Barry Wicksman, department chair Thomas Sharts, Guadalupe Robinson, and Barry Wonenberg.
NMC

The full-time Social Sciences and Fine Arts faculty members at Northern Marianas College offer students an array of versatility and experiences in their instruction for those students that take general education and electives courses the department offers to assist them in earning bachelor or associate degrees. The Social Sciences and Fine Arts Department at Northern Marianas College offers courses in history, geography, political science, sociology, psychology, college success, ceramics, drawing, painting, etc.

Thomas D. Sharts (M.Ed.) is the department chair of the Social Sciences and Fine Arts Department and also teaches sociology and college success. He brings an array of experiences to the classroom as a result of his work in the fields of social work, business and higher education. He also has self-published a number of books related to sociology and self-help and also writes freelance business articles for the *Marianas Business Journal* and *Guam Business Journal.*

Barry Wonenberg (M.Ed., MFA) is the department's fine arts instructor and teaches courses in ceramics, drawing, painting and introduction to art. He has been employed with NMC for 25 years and recently was appointed as a member of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council. Also, over the past several years, he was twice invited to attend an international sculpture competition to create monumental sculpture in China. His sculpture and ceramic works are displayed at various locations throughout the island.

Barry Wicksman (M.Ed. and MLS.) is the department's Asian and Micronesian history instructor and teaches courses in geography, Chinese history, Japanese history, and Northern Marianas history. Wicksman was NMC's 2014 Instructor of the Year and has written two books. He also has lived and worked in Japan, Taiwan, China, Korea, and the Philippines. Moreover, Wicksman had worked as an English as a Second Language instructor with the college for 14 years and speaks three different Asian languages: Japanese, Chinese and Thai.

Guadalupe Robinson (M.A.) serves as the department's primary college success instructor and formerly was an English instructor at the college. She has experience as news writer, working for the *Pacific Daily News* in Guam and with the *Marianas Variety* on Saipan. She also has been involved with reporting historical events associated with Covenant talks beginning in the early 1970's, and in 2013, presented a scholarly paper titled: *The Political Status Talks Leading to Commonwealth Status: A Personal Perspective.*

Eugene Foels (M.S.) is the department's American and world history instructor. He teaches courses in American history, world history, political science and sport and society. He has published two sports history books in reference to local Western New York sports history and currently is working on another book related to earmarking the greatest athletes in Tonawanda High School history.

The Social Sciences department also recently hired Timothy Baker (MSW) as its general psychology instructor. Baker has experience in delivering social work and counseling services in the private sector and higher education.

According to Sharts, he is impressed with the versatility and skills the department's full-time faculty offer. He stated: "I…believe their unique skills, experiences and knowledge serve as a vital educative and socializing mechanism in helping NMC students gain important abilities in areas associated with work-related skills such as general education knowledge, critical thinking skills and problem-solving skills. Likewise, our full-time faculty looks forward to serving the future traditional and non-traditional students in order to help them achieve their education and vocational goals."

For more information about the Social Sciences and Fine Arts Department contact Sharts at 670-237-6761 or email thomas.sharts@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

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HOLIDAY SEASON CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 24th (Thursday) Raraina
Christmas Eve Candle Light Course Dinner
$60.00 and $80.00 pp

December 24th (Thursday)
Costa
Christmas Eve Dinner Buffet
$32.00 Adult • $16.00 Child
With Roast Prime Ribs, Baked Turkey, Leg of Lamb, Sashimi & Sushi, Crab Legs, Smoked Salmon, Assorted Christmas Desserts. Beers and Champagne.

December 25th (Friday)
Costa & Raraina
Christmas Day Brunch Buffet
$34.00 Adult • $17.00 Child
With Roast Prime Ribs, Roast Suckling Pig, Baked Tom Turkey with Stuffing, Lamb Chops, Crab legs, Oysters, Prawns, Sashimi and Sushi, Assorted Christmas Desserts, Champagne and Beers.

December 25th (Friday)
Costa & Raraina
Christmas Seafood Night Dinner Buffet
$26.00 Adult • 15.00 Child
With All you can eat assorted seafood items like..Crab Legs, Baked Mahi Mahi, Smoked Salmon, Tempura, Prawns, Sashimi, Sushi, Grilled Squid Lots of Sweets and Cakes/Ice Cream and Beers.

December 31st (Thursday)
Costa & Raraina
New Years Eve Gala Dinner Buffet
$34.00 Adult • $17.00 Child
With Roast Prime ribs, Baked Ham, Roast whole Lamb, Cornish Hen, Pork Kebab, Crab Legs, Prawns, Smoked Salmon, Sword Fish, Tuna Sashimi, Sushi, Jumbo Squid, Ice Cream Bombe, Sweets Desserts, Cakes, Champagne and Beers.

December 31st (Thursday)
Michelle's Pool & Beach Bar
New Years Countdown Party Celebration
No entrance fee and open for public.
From 9:30 to 12midnight
With live entertainment from Alana'ia Polynesian Music and Dancers
Grandeur Fireworks display on countdown.
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Selected Beverages and Snacks are available for orders.

January 1st (Friday)
Costa & Raraina
New Year's Day Brunch
$26.00 Adult • 15.00 Child
With Roast Suckling Pig, Roast Prime Ribs, Beef Short Ribs, Smoked Salmon, Crab Legs, Tuna Sashimi and Sushi, Baby Octopus, Lots of Desserts, Cakes and Champagne and Beers.

For reservation, call 322-1234 (F&B ext. 731/732)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

More rights for Saudi women

When the rulers of Saudi Arabia allowed women to run for municipal offices and vote in the elections last weekend, the desert kingdom took a small but historic step into the era of gender equality, catching up to its Middle Eastern neighbors who had already given women the right to vote and losing the distinction of being the only country on Earth where men hold the franchise exclusively.

Still, this is the most nascent of reform movements. After all, women arrived, swathed head to toe in abayas and hijabs, at gender-segregated polling places, and left in cars necessarily chauffeured by men. There's no question that giving women the right to run for office and vote is symbolically important, but the country's elections extend little power to any voters, male or female. (Authority stays with the ministries.) Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia remains one of the most repressive countries in the world in terms of human rights overall and women in particular.

Under the country's conservative interpretation of Islam, women must cover up in public and are not allowed to drive. Some women—including one who ran for office—have publicly defied this law and were jailed. . Most oppressively, Saudi women are governed by male guardians, who must grant permission before they can obtain a passport, marry or attend college.

The government has pledged to abolish male guardianship, but that has yet to happen. Legally, women can work without a guardian's approval—but some employers require it anyway. These rules are deeply ingrained in Saudi culture, and the pace of change is glacial.

It's time, not just culturally but economically, to lift these restrictions. More Saudi women than men are getting college degrees, but less than a quarter of them work in the country. Making sure that women have access to jobs and their own means of getting to them—by driving a car—not only offers them the independence that should rightfully be theirs, but helps boost family incomes and the overall economy, whose growth has cooled significantly.

It was the late King Abdullah who promised in 2011 that women would be allowed to participate in elections this year, and King Salman, smartly, kept that promise. Building on the success of the elections (women didn't just run for office—some of them won), the Saudi government should see this as the time to push further with reforms. It should repeal male guardianship laws and the edict against women driving. These changes are a matter of protecting human rights, and not coincidentally, they make social, cultural and economic sense.

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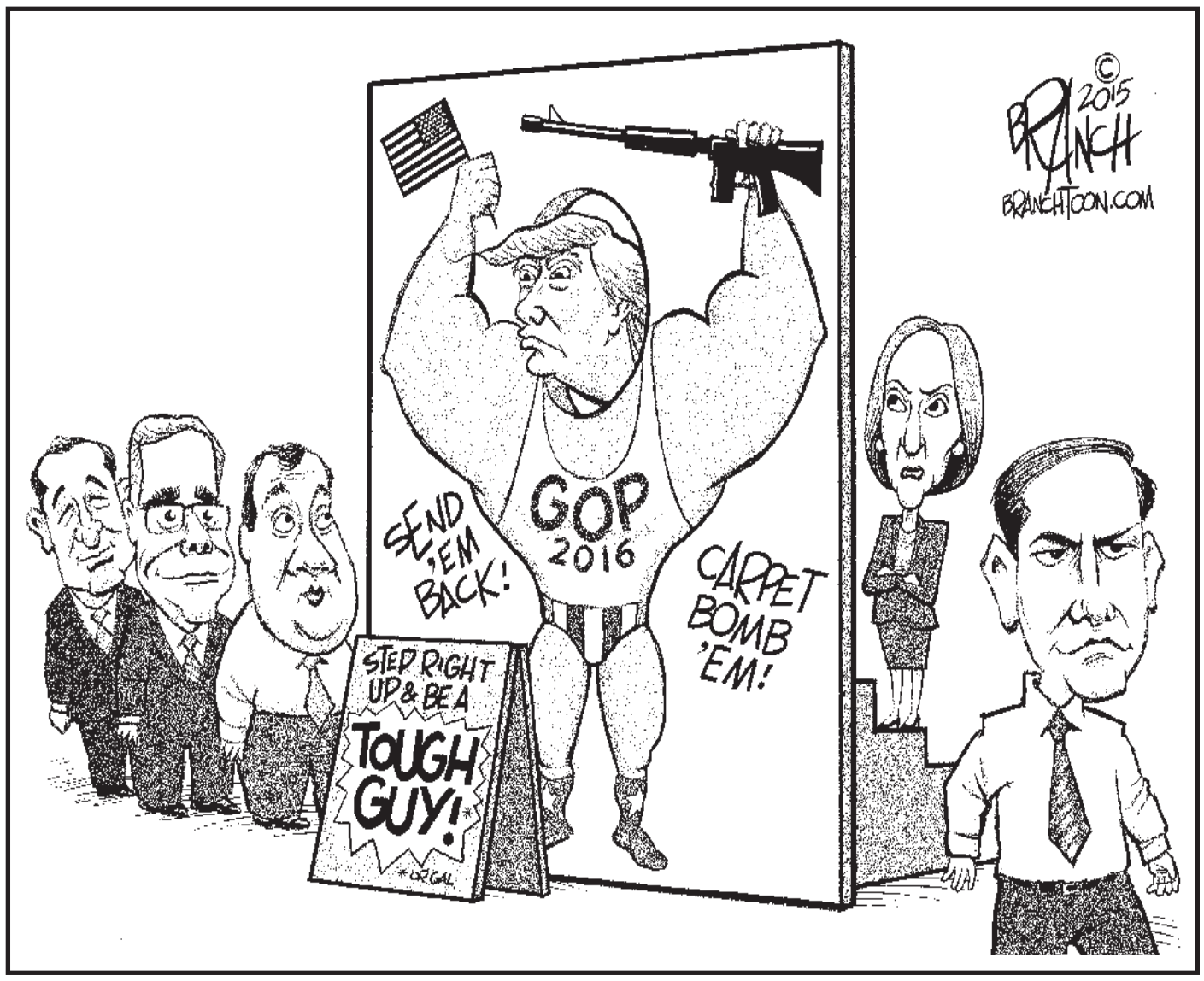
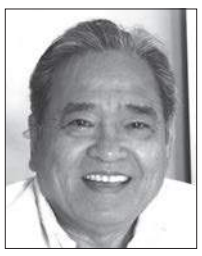


The Person of the Year

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

Time magazine enlivens readership by naming a Person of the Year. It does not make a moral judgment whether the choice is good or bad for the general population or the planet. Germany's Adolf Hitler got the recognition in 1938, which led some to accuse the weekly of ideological Nazism.

I gave up on *Time* magazine after I lived in Chicago in the '60s, for no reason other than I was pinching my pennies in spite of the magazine's generous subscription rate for students but I kept up on their weekly coverage at the library as it remained one of the decent centrist rags that reflected contemporary American society. Its China-born-and-bred American founder and publisher, Henry Luce, of Presbyterian missionary parents, has *Fortune, Life,* and *Sports Illustrated* magazines to his credit. He was neither far off left nor right fields.

This year's Person of the Year is the famed Aleman *frau* Angela Merkel who played the middle against the extreme ends this year and deserves the title. IMHO. Chancellor of Germany for a decade now, she led the Christian Democratic Union since the turn of the millennium and progressively gained international renown with opening up Germany's borders to Syrian refugees, an affront to U.S.' kneejerk and fearful response on the WH's attempt to settle 10,000 refugees into the U.S. The refugee issue deftly handled by Merkel is domestically controversial.

The *Time* coverage generated mostly favorable responses in Germany. It introduced me to the word "panegyric" used by the media to describe the published text in praise of a person. We shan't repeat *Time*'s account on Merkel's persona so we will leave the awardee alone for readers to Google or read about in *Time* magazine.

It is on the award of "person of the year" that I comment on. The symbol system of the West since Hercules venerates the hero, and in the past, a champ gaining idol status was elevated to the top of Mt. Olympus as divine. Jesus of Nazareth is an example. Global society now appropriates the elitist virtue of a hero on athletes, movie stars, politicians, and even academic eggheads who gain notoriety in their fields, earning admirers from an adulating audience.

I asked female students on Saipan why they wear their hair long in the humid weather of the tropics when a short hair would be more appropriate, and, of course, they readily admit it has to do with fashion, the preferred style, not common sense. This is true as well for males wearing pants since physically they are better equipped to wear *malongs/sarongs* as the females can comfortably wear pants.

The award of the "person of the year" falls in the same vein, a fashionable statement but in today's democratic space, what needs recognition is the effort of many that trumps the efforts of a few. This reminds us of the Donald rumored to be the runner-up on *Time*'s list, and of course, he proceeded to denigrate Angela Merkel as ruining Germany. Trump vowed not to allow any refugees into the country should he be assigned a watch at the White House.

It is really no longer just a person that moves history, as our school textbooks are wont to portray. Hero worship is hard to resist, and even the proletarian henchman of the Long March became an object of praise and his statue dominates downtown parks in China. In reality, however, ordinary workers and unsung unknowns literally laid their bodies on the barbwire of history that made deep revolutionary changes.

Still, it is true that movements in history need persons at the head of the line. Obummer is vilified for not being decisive enough to assert personality when promoting executive policies, thus considered weak in some quarters.

In addition to the Donald and Merkel, the "Person of the Year" contenders included ISIS leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi who wants to establish a caliphate in Syria and Iraq, Black Lives Matter activists, the transgender Caitlyn Jenner, Uber CEO Travis Kalanick, Vladimir Putin of Russia, and Iran's President Hassan Rouhani, the last trying to get his country out of pariah status in the international community.

The list just begs the question of why *Time* zeroes in on persons, even when it included the Black Lives Matter activists.

While we do not see the fading of the practice of "hero worship" any time soon, it is well to begin looking at the broader picture of movements in history, temporary in nature but nonetheless leaving an indelible imprint on our lives. In my time, we had the civil rights movement before the media turned it into reverence of Martin the King. The Vietnam War movement made a devil of LBJ that caused him to pass up a second term but the folks who went beyond Vietnam to question the U.S.' decision to police the world did not get the limelight. Meanwhile, Wall Street's quiet pursuit of oil exploration on the ground raises no question.

My earthrise consciousness focuses on the planet more than the person. Angela Merkel nonetheless gets our nod. *Prost!*

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Top 5 events of 2015

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Haidee V. Eugenio covered politics, mmigration, environment, business and other news beats as a reporter for Saipan Tribune *and other news media in the CNMI for 16 years.*

Natural and man-made disasters altered many lives in 2015, yielding a tapestry of highs and lows in the CNMI. As 2015 draws to a close, let's have a look back at the top 5 events (on my list) that defined the year.

From a devastating typhoon to a massive Internet outage, a former governor's conviction and sentence commutation, the opening of the first casino on Saipan, and the continued disappearances and unsolved murders, 2015 was quite a newsmaker, wasn't it?

5. Fitial's conviction and sentence commutation. Former governor Benigno R. Fitial became the first CNMI governor to be convicted of crimes, more than two years after becoming the first governor in the CNMI and any U.S. territory to be impeached over corruption, felony and neglect of duty.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Fitial on June 24, 2015, to one year in prison for misconduct in public office and conspiracy to commit theft of services.

They were in connection with the temporary release of a Chinese masseuse from prison to give him a private massage at his mansion, and for helping his then-attorney general Edward T. Buckingham (who was also convicted and sentenced) evade lawful service of process during departure from the Saipan airport.

Fitial, however, didn't spend a single minute in jail. On July 5, Gov. Eloy S. Inos commuted his long-time friend Fitial's one-year sentence, citing the latter's failing health. That was a day before Fitial was supposed to start serving his prison term.

The sentence commutation drew fire from community members who were expecting that Fitial will serve his sentence for the crimes he committed while holding the highest elected position in the CNMI. Others invoked a "culture of forgiveness," and wanted consideration of Fitial's state of health as well as his contributions to the CNMI's economic successes.

Fitial has since moved back to the Philippines, his wife's hometown, for medical rehabilitation. He stepped down as CNMI governor on Feb. 20, 2013, or days before his impeachment trial at the Senate.

4. Missing persons, murders, major 'ice' busts. Disappearances and unsolved murders continued in 2015.

In January, the owner of Saipan Fresh Market was reported missing and has since not been found. He is the nephew of one of the two Chinese farmers who were murdered and their bodies dumped at the old runway in Koblerville in November 2014. There were other unsolved murders and disappearances from previous years.

The manager of family-owned Deng Shi Auto Shop was also reported missing after he went spear fishing at the Banzai Cliff area in Marpi in September. He has yet to be found.

In May, remains of a missing teen were found near Obyan Beach. That was seven months after she was reported missing. This remains unsolved.

On July 17, the Division of Customs Services confiscated from an incoming cargo approximately 23.5 lbs. or some $4.2 million worth of methamphetamine or "ice," the biggest in CNMI history. This was followed five months later by the confiscation from a cargo of some 4.9 lbs. or $850,000 worth of "ice."

That's more than $5 million worth of "ice" that (hopefully) won't be finding their way to homes, villages, schools and streets of the CNMI.

3. Saipan casino opening. Exclusive Saipan casino licensee Best Sunshine International held the grand opening for its live training facility or temporary casino on the ground floor of T Galleria on Nov. 27—their initial offering for a promised $7.1-billion integrated casino resort on Saipan.

This was four months after they had a soft opening, and a year after entering into a casino license agreement with the CNMI government via the Commonwealth Lottery Commission.

In just a short two-year period, Saipan has become Micronesia's gaming capital with the opening of a casino and electronic gaming at hotels, in addition to existing poker parlors in almost every village, even as video lottery is still very much welcome.

Best Sunshine and decisions made by elected leaders with regard to the casino, including several amendments to the Saipan casino law to accommodate Best Sunshine's needs and wants, tax breaks, and choice of land for the integrated resort, among other things, have become news staple. There's no sign this will change anytime soon.

2. Saipan goes offline. Saipan experienced a technology blackout and was cut off from the outside world beginning in the early morning hours of July 8. This was a result of a cut in the only undersea cable linking the CNMI to the outside world.

Some three weeks later and after more than $2 million spent in repairs, IT&E's Internet service was in back in full operation.

IT&E said its undersea fiber optic cable, through which the CNMI communicates with the outside world, can last for another 32 years given proper maintenance in the waters between Guam and Saipan.

During the cable cut, people on Saipan were unable to make and receive phone calls, unable to send and get text messages, emails, or browse the Internet. Tourists and residents were also unable to use their credit cards or withdraw cash from ATMs. Some flights to and from Saipan were cancelled or delayed.

The technology outage made Saipan realize the island's vulnerability, with one cable cut having the potential to bring down the entire CNMI economy in just a matter of days.

As it turned out, the Internet outage was just the beginning of worse things to come, when a major typhoon hit Saipan the following month.

1. Typhoon Soudelor. No other natural disaster inflicted so much damage to Saipan in recent years than Typhoon Soudelor beginning on the night of Aug. 2.

Typhoon Soudelor pummeled Saipan with fierce winds and torrential rains, leaving thousands homeless when their dwellings got ripped apart, flattening neighborhoods, destroying businesses, and disrupting water and power services. Gas stations had to resort to fuel rationing and grocery stores' shelves were running empty.

The typhoon images were inescapable and heart wrenching but survivors didn't lose their humanity and resilience. People near and far readily extended a helping hand. Private individuals took it upon themselves to reach out to neighborhoods needing help, when government agencies still couldn't reach them. Luckily, the typhoon didn't claim any life but only minor injuries.

President Barack Obama signed a major disaster declaration for the CNMI so that federal funds will be immediately released to help meet emergency needs and recovery efforts, after Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and the Inos administration reached out to the White House.

Within days of Soudelor's fury, federal agencies and neighbors like Guam came to Saipan's rescue, including the U.S. Navy, Marines, U.S. Coast Guard, Guam Power Authority, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. A long-term recovery process continues.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Why is Donald Trump leading in the polls?

I found this question interesting and I wondered if anyone else did, until I started to think about us here.

My relatives recently moved to Boise because of the local Saipan government corruption and how unconnected the legislative and executive branches are from the people. And then my mind went to Donald Trump. I started reading.

Donald Trump does receive donations. To date, he has raised $5,828,922. The next Republican is Ben Carson at $2.4 million. In contrast, Hillary Clinton has raised $24 million—10 times that of Donald Trump. Why the difference? Donald Trump has received almost all of it from the public in amounts of $250 or less. The people want Donald Trump. Big businesses want Hillary Clinton.

Last week our Legislature was debating two bills. The first was to take away some of our access to Coca Cola and Pepsi products, even diet sodas. The supporters of the bill felt that the Big Brother government should have the role in dictating what you drink in order to curb diabetes, only it won't because access to simple sugar carbohydrate foods fill the store shelves. It is cheap and we don't have a lot of extra family income to spend on protein foods like fish. I think the U.S. government tried that a while ago. It was called "prohibition."

At the same time, the Legislature was debating another bill. This was to bypass liquor laws that every bar and restaurant is subject to and exempt the casinos from a liquor curfew. In essence, our Big Brother government would unilaterally allow casinos to keep us drugged with alcohol so that we will gamble more, being without the normal inhibition of our senses telling us that moderation is best.

I saw a program on TV the other night. It appears that lower animals use the first impression or a feeling or premonition more than humans. They have to react very quickly to a predator. If not, they might be eaten. As our brains started to develop, more cortical critical thinking evolved and heck, we learned calculus. Alcohol inhibits this higher cortical reasoning. At large amounts it may even inhibit our ability to breathe but that is huge amounts. When our cortex is inhibited our reasoning goes and our lower brain resorts to that first impression or premonition feeling. Rolling a roulette on a number carries a one-in-38 chance, yet people will say, "It is going to be 17. I can just feel it!" This is why casinos serve alcohol. They want us drugged all night long. There is no magic to it.

So our Legislature is on one hand debating our rights to access to soda products and, on the other hand, debating to keep us drinking a drug that makes the casinos more money.

Well, where is the bill to help our school system? Why is the government-owned CUC charging us sky high utility rates? Why is gasoline so cheap in Thailand and so expensive on Saipan? Where is that health care reform bill we were hearing about? Why is the 99 percent finished dialysis center on Rota not completed?

The answer is that our legislative and executive branches of government are ruled by an elite Chamorro class of us that thinks they are better than the rest of us. Heck, have you ever tried to contact one? They are either off island (often on the taxpayer's dime), on vacation, or just plain out of the office. Look at how many are not in session to cast their votes reflecting our opinions.

Donald Trump is winning because the people of the United States have had enough with the old guard elite class in Washington. In the Senate and House, a new member rarely can get enough votes after they introduce a bill. Everyone looks to the Senate or House leader for his or her opinion. The older the senator or representatives, the more likely to get a bill voted in and, without their approval, the bills really don't go anywhere. Every committee chairperson is looked to for their opinion. The vote only goes somewhere if they want it to.

On Saipan should we vote in again our old friend the senator? He is the uncle of my brother twice removed. He calls on me to be a Chamorro sister. He tells us that we must stick together and he will take care of me. Who takes care of the future of my children?

I for one would recommend that next fall we not vote a single senator or representative into power that is already a sitting incumbent (been there before, done that before). The election after that in two years, we should remove the other half in the same way.

Donald Trump says he will still run if he does not get the Republican vote because the Democratic and Republican parties are the ones that really control the agenda. So this coming and the next election, why don't we get away from that elite class of Chamorros in office that think they know what is best for us by taking away our Pepsi and Coca Cola and instead drugging us with alcohol at the casinos so that the bribe money can keep filtering in, and get some new kick arse legislators/governor. Let us remember how the casino law was not put to a public vote because of the money trail. Let us remember our school system.

I think it's better to vote in the independents. For sure not the ones who have been there a long time. These incumbent people are the big brothers that are destroying the future for our children. They give and take on a bill until there is nothing left of it. If it is the casino then they can't help themselves for the money is for the greedy elite, thinking they know what is best for us.

In two years, let us finish with the other half of them. Let us find that independent group of Chamorros, Carolinians, and others who call this place home. Being a politician right now means being a professional liar or a professional vacationer or a professional at diluting a bill with give-and-take until what is passed has nothing of value. How many bills ever get passed a year, three, four or five? It is no wonder if they are always off the island. How often has a governor taken a stand that is for the people and kicks arse? How long has it been since we have heard anyone kick some arse up there on Capitol Hill?

It is time to find our own Donald Trump. I don't care if he is arrogant and obnoxious as Mr. Trump is. That is exactly what we need now. I only care that the person we elect next has honor, won't bleed a bill dry of any real value and will kick some butt. We need to change people in this elite class. The ones in there now are worthless. How is our healthcare? How are our schools? How are our roads? We need to change the future for our children not to keep in the same monkey's uncle because he will help get us a job. Let's look for a powerful minded independent, not another professional liar promising change but delivering no hope for our rights to live the way we choose. Let us vote in someone who has never been a politician and comes from a successful business, non-government background, void of all of the give-and-take big brother elitist type of thinking.

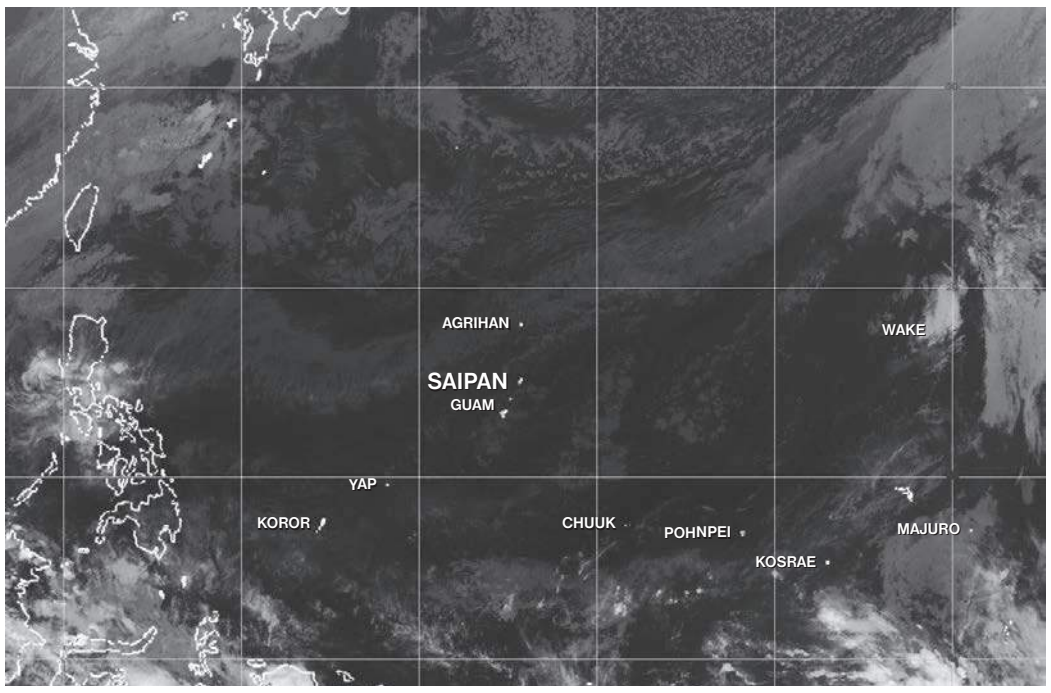
Mary Tomokane
Garapan, Saipan

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86º ▼75º	▲86º ▼75º	▲86º ▼75º	▲87º ▼76º	▲87º ▼76º

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from east of Minami Tori Shima near 25N161E to east of the northern CNMI at 20N150E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130 at 14N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are present along and up to 300 miles northwest of this boundary. An upper-level low centered south of Wake Island near 18N167E and an associated trough are generating isolated thunderstorms between 15N and 19N from 166E to 170E farther east. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen within 100 miles of a line from 13N171E to 20N173E to 23N172E. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from near 2N130E to beyond the date line at 2N. Patches of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present with the trough south of Koror south of a line from 3N130E to EQ135E southeast of Yap to south of Chuuk within 60 miles of a line from 6N141E to 2N153E. farther east. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are south of Kosrae to east of Tarawa and Butaritari atolls south of a line from 2N163E to 2N170E to 6N180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼78
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼61
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲44	▼23
Hong Kong	Showers	▲70	▼67
Honolulu	Windy	▲82	▼72
London	Showers	▲58	▼54
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼45
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼74
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼53
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼75
New York	Cloudy	▲54	▼51
Osaka	Rain	▲55	▼44
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲54	▼52
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼39
Rome	Sunny	▲62	▼44
Salem	Rain	▲47	▼41
San Francisco	Rain	▲55	▼51
Seoul	Showers	▲45	▼26
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲54	▼44
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲55	▼49

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:12 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
9:29 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
3:38 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
10:55 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:38 AM	5:52 PM
Tuesday	6:38 AM	5:52 PM
Wednesday	6:39 AM	5:53 PM
Thursday	6:39 AM	5:53 PM
Friday	6:40 AM	5:54 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:14 PM	2:06 AM
Tuesday	3:05 PM	3:04 AM
Wednesday	3:57 PM	4:04 AM
Thursday	4:52 PM	5:03 AM
Friday	5:49 PM	6:02 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 4, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5072/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2924/159	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

House passes bill allowing PSS to borrow up to $5M from USDA

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Public School System's plan to take out a $5 million loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development program is now one step closer to fruition after the House of Representatives last Thursday passed House Bill 19-59.

The funding bill, which needed two-thirds affirmative votes, passed on 19 yes votes and one absence.

It authorizes PSS to enter into a loan agreement not exceeding $5 million with USDA for the purposes of building additional classrooms, Early Head Start Centers, and to pave roads and parking lots at its facilities on Rota and Tinian.

Introduced by Rep. Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan), H.B. 19-59 originally passed the House seeking for a $3-million loan from USDA.

The Senate, however, amended the bill and increased the debt ceiling to $5 million after PSS officials said that inflation, increase in construction and labor costs, especially in the wake of Typhoon Soudelor, and other factors could add another $2 million to the total project cost.

Sablan

The bill's findings said that PSS needs six additional Kindergarten classrooms, four Early Head Start Centers, and paved school roads and parking lots on Tinian and Rota.

"In order to continue with its mission to provide the best education and services available to the students of the Mariana Islands, the PSS is (sic) needs to continue to provide quality early education. This means both more kindergarten classrooms to keep up with a growing population and more Early Head Start Centers in order to identify needs and meet them from the earliest of ages," reads a portion of the measure.

In addition, PSS has identified its own revenue streams to pay back the loan and will not need additional appropriations from the Legislature above its constitutional allotment to service the loan.

PSS hopes that the improving economy will increase its yearly allocations from the government and the additional funding would help them pay off the loan in five years.

Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan) said he fully supports the bill as it is not only Saipan educational facilities that stand to benefit from the PSS loan but also educational facilities on Tinian and Rota. Guerrero said he has relatives on both the first and second senatorial districts and the 19th Legislature has responsibility to them to pass the bill to improve PSS' facilities there.

H.B. 19-59 now heads to acting governor Ralph DLG Torres' desk for approval in order to become law.

Leon Guerrero is new BoG EVP

Guerrero

HAGATNA, Guam— Maria Eugenia H. Leon Guerrero has been appointed Bank of Guam's executive vice president for Retail and Card Services effective Jan. 1, 2016.

Leon Guerrero is a graduate of Guam's St. John's School, earning her undergraduate degree in International Studies at the University of Washington in 2001. In 2009, she completed her Master of Business Administration from the University of Washington Foster School of Business and joined Bank of Guam that same year as a management trainee. In 2011, Leon Guerrero was named to oversee the bank's Six Sigma Program and became its strategic planning officer.

» Heads branch administration, e-banking, and card services

In May 2013, Leon Guerrero was promoted to vice president, overseeing the bank's Project Management Office and its strategic planning effort.

The following year, Leon Guerrero was named Business Services Division manager responsible for all Card Services, and was named in June 2015 as the director of Card Services overseeing credit and debit cards, merchant services and ATMs, while continuing to assist in the development of the bank's strategic plan.

As executive vice president/Retail Banking and Card Services, Leon Guerrero will oversee Bank of Guam's primary customer touchpoints including the branch network, online banking and payment card related products.

Leon Guerrero is currently attending the Pacific Coast Banking School at the University of Washington, and is a candidate for graduation in September 2017. She is also a certified Project Management Professional.

Leon Guerrero presently serves on the board of directors for the Foundation for Public Education, serving as its secretary. She is also treasurer, Rotary Club of Tumon Bay, and serves on the Guam Community College Workforce Advisory Council as its secretary. ***(BoG)***

Ruptured line causes water outage in Kagman

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in Kagman experienced a temporary water service interruption on Friday, resulting from a ruptured 8-inch distribution line under Puteng Drive.

CUC water personnel responded to reports of a water leak along Puteng Drive at 11:30am on Friday and identified the source of the leak as the distribution line that carries water from the Kagman reservoir to CUC customers in Kagman 3, Phase 2.

CUC customers in Kagman 3, Phases 1 and 2, remained without water until repairs were completed, estimated to be no later than 6pm Friday night. ***(CUC)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2016

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, **through the** Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an **estimated** $1,219,232.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of $873,837.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); $278,365.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, $67,030.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2016.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning December 21, 2015. You may also obtain the application via our website at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by ***Friday, March 25, 2016, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 25, 2016, will not be accepted.***

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

- ***Saipan: February 15, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the NMHC Conference Room located in Garapan, Saipan.***
- ***Tinian: February 16, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the NMHC Field Office located in San Jose, Tinian.***
- ***Rota: February 17, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the NMHC Field Office located in Songsong Village, Rota.***

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at 234-7689 or 234-6866.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

NMHC hereby provides notice to the public that available funding for the **Homeownership Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program** has reached the point of exhaustion and therefore the agency is calling for a moratorium on the processing of new applicants for the program. NMHC may accept completed applications but will be placed on the waiting list. Processing of new applicants for the HOME Program will commence when funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) becomes available.

Pursuant to NMHC's HOME Program Policies and Procedures, and because of the limited funding allocated to the CNMI each program year, NMHC has recognized the need to prioritize the level of assistance to qualified families. And because there are currently more applicants than available funds, NMHC shall establish and maintain an applicant waiting list where applicants shall be assisted if and when additional funds become available.

Eligibility for the program is determined by household size and income and must not exceed 80% of the HUD income limits as indicated by the following table:

INCOME LIMITS 2015	1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person	7 Person	8 Person
30% of Median Income	13,050	14,900	16,750	18,600	20,100	21,600	23,100	24,600
50% of Median Income	21,700	24,800	27,900	31,000	33,500	36,000	38,450	40,950
80% of Median Income	34,750	39,700	44,650	49,600	53,600	57,550	61,550	65,500

All applicants that have been approved and are being assisted, as well as those placed on the waiting list shall be processed on a first come, first serve basis.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposed Amendment of the Citizen Participation Plan
(This advertisement is paid for with HUD funds)

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the proposed amendment of its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) which sets forth NMHC's policies and procedures for citizen participation in the planning, implementation, and assessment of its Community Planning Development (CPD) funds for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME), and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs.

The CPP is available for public review and inspection at the NMHC's Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, and at the respective NMHC field offices in Tinian and Rota during regular business hours from Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. Written comments should be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. Monday, December 28, 2015 to NMHC's offices in Saipan, Tinian, or Rota.

The CPP may also be viewed at our website at www.nmhcgov.net under the section titled "Public Notice/Announcement" and select the subsection titled "Citizen Participation Plan Amendment". Comments can be submitted via email at nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp no later than 4:30 p.m. Monday, December 28, 2015.

NMHC will make the necessary arrangement for persons with disabilities. If you should require any additional information or need special accommodations in reviewing the CPP, please contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at 234-6866/234-9447.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

‘Unai Dangkulo’ Beach Park now open to public

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Government officials led by acting governor Ralph DLG Torres joined Coral Ocean Golf Resort general manager Matthew Park in inaugurating the Unai Dangkulo Beach Park Pavilion at the beachside near hole No. 18 inside the golf course.

Construction of the entire facility began in July but was stalled when Typhoon Soudelor hit Saipan on Aug. 2. Work resumed a few weeks after management, staff, and several hotel guests finished cleaning up the debris left by the super typhoon.

The park, which has parking space and a barbecue pit, is now open for public use, with the Coral Ocean management planning to add toilets in the future.

“This pavilion belongs to the community and as our way of saying that we are a good neighbor to society. We are here to grow with the CNMI and its people,” said Park.

He said they also took into consideration the security of the public who will use the facility and their guests.

“We will take care of the facilities here but we are also asking the public to do their share. We’re also discussing security measures for the public’s safety,” he added.

Torres thanked Park and the Coral Ocean management for building the pavilion and opening it for the use of the public.

“This is another opportunity to expose the southern side of the island for tourism, both local and foreign. The facility will be another destination that the [Marianas Visitors Authority] could promote as a destination here on Saipan,” said Torres.

JON PEREZ
Coral Ocean Golf Resort general manager Matthew Park speaks at the official unveiling of the Unai Dangkulo Beach Park Pavilion at the beachside near hole No. 18 inside the golf course.

He reminded everyone who will use the facility, especially local tourists, to preserve and keep the facility clean, and not leave trash behind.

“This is for the whole community to use. I encourage everyone to protect it and enjoy spending your time with your family and friends. We must celebrate but we must also maintain its cleanliness,” Torres added.

Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota), Senate floor leader Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan), House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Reps. Angel T. Demapan (R-Saipan), Anthony T. Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan), and Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Cabinet secretaries James Ada (Public Works) and Richard B. Seman (Lands and Natural Resources), MVA managing director Perry P. Tenorio, and United Micronesia Development Association chair Jose R. Lifoifoi were the other officials present at the dedication ceremony.

South Korea-based E-Land Group owns and operates Coral Ocean and Pacific Islands Club on Saipan.

Guam community gathers toys for Tinian children

DEDEDO, Guam—Thanks to the generosity of Micronesian Air Cargo Services and the efforts of the Tinian Mayor’s Office, in conjunction with the Department of Youth Services, the organizers of the Marine Corps Reserves’ Toys for Tots Program in Guam delivered toys to Tinian on Dec. 18. The donated dolls, games, sports equipment, books, and stocking stuffers were collected in Guam from Oct. 1 to Dec. 14.

Now in its seventh year in the area, and due in large part to the Guam Chamber of Commerce, the Toys for Tots Program has gained the support of dozens of area retailers, architectural firms, Guam public and private schools, real estate firms, automobile dealers, banks, restaurants, civic organizations, and numerous members of the public.

Capt. Brian Ralston, action officer in support of the Toys for Tots program, expressed his appreciation to the individuals and organizations who volunteered to make this year’s campaign an outstanding success. “The generous support of our community makes the Toys for Tots program one of the most successful community events in the area. It is humbling to be a part of a child’s happiness, especially during this holiday season.”

To see some of the contributors to this year’s campaign visit the Marine Corps Activity Guam Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/USMC-Guam. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Thanks to the Micronesian Air Cargo Services and the efforts of the Tinian Mayor’s Office, organizers for the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program in Guam delivered toys to Tinian on the 18th of December.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A U.S. Marine loads the toys for delivery to the Micronesian Air Cargo Services, which turned over the toys to the Tinian Mayor’s Office.

2015 Christmas in the Marianas Festival

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Chamorro cultural dancers join the float parade of the 2015 CNMI Christmas in the Marianas Festival last Saturday that started at Garapan Fishing Base and ended at Paseo de Marianas.

Members of the CNMI delegation to the 2016 Festival of the Pacific to be held from May 22 to June 4 in Guam join the Marianas Festival last Saturday.

Saipanda waves to the crowd.

Northern Marianas International School vice principle Jener Pineda, left, aboard the pickup truck carrying their entry in the float contest.

The Saipan Awaodori Team performs during the parade.

Reigning Miss Marianas Teen Gianna Camacho, left, and Miss Marianas Jian Joyner.

Koblerville Elementary School students and faculty pose for a group photo during a brief pause in the event.

William S. Reyes Elementary School students with their recycled costumes.

The Kagman High School delegation.

Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture members wave to the crowd.

Even dogs that are up for adoption made the short walk from Garapan Fishing Base to Paseo de Marianas.

Skywalker launches GreenStay housing project

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JON PEREZ

From left, House Vice Speaker Ralph Demapan, Senate President Victor Hocog, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Skywalker managing director Bo Hu, and acting governor Ralph DLG Torres cut the ribbon to officially unveil on Friday the GreenStay model home at the Garapan Fishing Base.

After more than a month of secrecy, Skywalker Communications Group finally unveiled last Friday its GreenStay housing project that is specifically designed for Pacific Island nations like the CNMI.

The model unit is located at the Garapan Fishing Base across Kristo Rai Church and is now open for viewing.

The house—designed by Yu Jiao and features two-, three- and four-bedroom units—uses container vans, reinforced steel, and other pre-fabricated materials.

Skywalker managing director Bo Hu said they are offering the houses especially to those whose homes were damaged by Typhoon Soudelor.

"I went to a lot of villages after the typhoon to see the damage of the houses. One reason is because of the structure. We decided to find materials that would be affordable and at the same time strong that could withstand typhoons. We asked our Beijing office to create a design of these houses," said Bo.

"We will also be seeking advice from the people who will view our model units in order for us to improve the product. For now, we are seeking more information and hopefully we get support from the community," he added.

Skywalker public relations manager Kiki Chen said that they are also planning to build an entire community of houses for the CNMI. "Hopefully we could get clearance from the Department of Public Lands. An entire community would help a lot of people."

If the project pushes through, the community will be a subdivision-type with either row houses or detached units. It is envisioned to have a shopping center, supermarket, hotel, two tennis courts, a basketball court, cultural square, restaurant, Kindergarten school, Laundromat, café, cinema, gym, post office, and public park based on the design plan.

Acting governor Ralph DLG Torres said the project is welcome news to the CNMI, especially with some 1,700 homes damaged by Soudelor.

"It is a great opportunity for the people to avail of the project. This is a type of project that we want to see on the island," Torres added.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said the housing project symbolizes the global effort in saving energy. "It is quick to assemble and it reduces the use of manufactured building materials. It offers a safer and stronger alternative to the homeowners. GreenStay project is a welcome option."

Torres' wife Diann, Senate President Victor Hocog, Sens. Sixto Igisomar, Arnold Palacios, and Justo Quitugua, House Vice Speaker Ralph Demapan, Reps. George Camacho, Angel Demapan, Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero, and Felicidad Ogumoro, and Public Works Secretary James Ada were also present at the unveiling of the project.

For more information or for private viewing, call Skywalker at 234-7942 or visit their office at the second floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

Nine Saipan parishes join Songfest 2015

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nine Saipan parishes joined the fourth edition of Songfest 2015 held last Saturday at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa.

The annual event, which featured song and dances by young and old parishioners of the nine parishes, is organized by the Office of Religious Education program headed by director Sr. Ma. Rita Siochi, SJGS.

Siochi said the event has been an annual tradition of the diocese under the leadership of Apostolic Administrator Rev. Fr. Ryan Jimenez even before she arrived on Saipan three years ago.

"Before, they used to hold it on the Saturday after Easter. We just changed the date to highlight and remember the birth of Jesus. It is our way of giving thanks through singing," said Sochi in a brief interview by *Saipan Tribune*. "It is also part of the Office of Religious Education to prepare the kids who will be having their first communion, confession, pre-confirmation, and confirmation."

Saint Jude Parish kicked off the festivities with a Christmas pageant presentation. San Vicente parishioners opened the song presentation with their own rendition of *Mary's Boy Child*.

San Antonio Parish followed with a medley of *Silent Night, Deck The Halls,* and *We Wish You A Merry Christmas*. Mt. Carmel sang *Twelve Days of Christmas.*

After an intermission where an offering was collected for the benefit of children in mission places, San Jose Saipan restarted the program with their own medley of Advent and Christmas songs.

Kristo Rai danced their way to *Mary's Boy Child* and *O My Lord* while Santa Remedios had a Christmas in the Marianas-themed presentation.

San Roque saved the best for last with a modern take on *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* with rap, beat box, and breakdancing.

The Songfest ended with the community singing *O Holy Night.*

JON PEREZ

Rev. Fr. Ryan Jimenez, eighth left, and Sr. Ma. Rita Sochi, sixth join representatives of the nine parishes that performed in the Songfest 2015 held Saturday at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa.

JON PEREZ

Kids from the San Roque parish perform in the Songfest 2015 held last Saturday at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa.

JON PEREZ

Part of San Jose Saipan parish choir that performed in the Songfest 2015 held last Saturday at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa.

World

Fierce fighting in northern Yemen kills at least 75

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Fierce fighting and airstrikes by a Saudi-led coalition pounded northern Yemen on Saturday, as the two main parties in the country's conflict continued to violate a ceasefire agreement and undermine already tenuous peace talks in Switzerland.

The clashes in Hajjah Province near the Saudi border between rebel-allied units and pro-government Yemeni forces have killed more than 75 over the past three days, Yemeni security officials and witnesses said. The dead included more than 40 rebels and 35 government troops, with 50 wounded on the rebel side and dozens wounded on the government side. Dozens of tanks and armored vehicles were destroyed, according to the witnesses and security officials, who remain neutral in the conflict that has splintered the Arab world's poorest country.

The government troops advanced across the border from Saudi territory after training there for months, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to brief reporters.

Yemen's fighting pits the internationally recognized government backed by a Saudi-led, U.S.-supported coalition against the rebels, known as Houthis, who are allied with a former president and backed by Iran. Local affiliates of al-Qaida and the Islamic State group have exploited the chaos to grab land and exercise influence.

According to U.N. figures, the war in Yemen has killed at least 5,884 people since March, when fighting escalated after the Saudi-led coalition began launching airstrikes targeting the rebels.

Fighting in Yemen has continued despite a weeklong cease-fire agreement that went into effect on Tuesday. By Wednesday, at least 42 people had been killed in clashes along several front lines, underscoring the difficulties of achieving progress at the U.N.-brokered peace talks in the Swiss village of Macolin.

On Friday, the Yemeni rebel delegation suspended meetings with the internationally recognized government in protest over its cease-fire violations. The Houthis said they would not resume talks unless the U.N. condemned breaches by government forces, delegates at the talks told AP.

A member of the Houthi delegation said U.N. special envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed had "promised to condemn the government and then he did not."

A government delegate said: "They are using the ceasefire as an excuse although they were the first to break it." Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

The U.N. has urged all factions in the conflict to end the violence and is pressing to keep the talks going.

WORLD BRIEFS

US says bombers didn't intend to fly over China-held island

BEIJING (AP)—The United States said its two B-52 bombers had no intention of flying over a Chinese-controlled man-made island in the South China Sea, after Beijing accused Washington of "a serious military provocation" in the strategic waters with overlapping claims. China's Defense Ministry on Saturday accused the U.S. of deliberately raising tensions in the region, where China has been aggressively asserting its claims to virtually all islands, reefs and their surrounding seas. It reiterated that it would do whatever is necessary to protect China's sovereignty. Pentagon spokesman Mark Wright said that the Dec. 10 mission was not a "freedom of navigation" operation and that there was "no intention of flying within 12 nautical miles of any feature," indicating the mission may have strayed off course.

Landslide buries buildings in China; casualties unknown

BEIJING (AP)—A landslide collapsed and buried buildings at and around an industrial park in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen on Sunday, with the number of casualties unknown, authorities reported. Seven people have been rescued after 18 buildings were buried and an area of 20,000 square meters (24,000 square yards) was covered with soil, the Public Security Bureau's firefighting bureau said in an online statement. Shenzhen's fire brigade said it had located a further eight trapped people and was in the process of rescuing them. It said in an online statement that one building had collapsed, but that the landslide had affected a large area in the northwestern outskirts of the city. State broadcaster CCTV said there was a residential area next to the industrial zone. It said the buildings buried included two workers' dormitories.

39 rescued, scores missing as waves sink Indonesian boat

MAKASSAR, Indonesia (AP)—Rescuers have pulled put 39 survivors and three dead from a passenger boat that sank in central Indonesia after being buffeted by high waves, and were battling bad weather Sunday to reach scores of others still missing. The fiberglass ferry was on its way from Kolaka in Southest Sulawesi province crossing the Gulf of Bone to Siwa town with 110 passengers and 12 crew, when it was overwhelmed by waves more than 3 meters (10 feet) high during stormy weather on Saturday afternoon, said Roki Asikin, head of the search and rescue agency in Makassar, the capital of South Sulawesi. Six rescue boats and ships were sent from Kendari and Makassar after they received a distress call from the crew who reported that the vessel was starting to take on water about 21 kilometers (13 miles) southeast of Siwa port in Wajo district, Asikin said. The passengers included 14 children, he said.

Rwandans vote overwhelmingly to lift Kagame's term limits

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP)—Rwandans have voted overwhelmingly to lift constitutional restrictions to allow President Paul Kagame to run for more terms in office, said the head of Rwanda's electoral commission as he released provisional results Saturday. More than 98 percent of voters in 30 districts voted to lift term limits for Kagame, Mbanda Kalisa said. "The final results will be released on Monday but this will not change much," Kalisa told journalists in Kigali. He said Rwandans who voted to maintain term limits were 1.7 percent. More than 6 million registered voters participated in the exercise, representing a voter turnout of 98.28 percent, he said. "(The) voting process was peaceful," Kalisa said.

Air France flight forced to land in Kenya over bomb scare

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—An Air France flight from Mauritius to Paris was forced to land in the Kenyan coastal city of Mombasa after a device suspected to be a bomb was found in the lavatory, a Kenyan police official said Sunday.

The Boeing 777 Air France flight 463 was heading to Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris when the pilots requested an emergency landing at the Moi International Airport at 12:37 a.m., police spokesman Charles Owino said.

"It requested an emergency landing when a device suspected to be an explosive was discovered in the lavatory," Owino said.

The plane was carrying 459 passengers and 14 crew members on board and had left Mauritius at 9 p.m., Owino said

All passengers were safely evacuated and the device was taken out, said Owino. Bomb experts are analyzing the suspected explosive, he said.

"The object, believed to be an explosive device has successfully been retrieved from the aircraft," said Kenya Airports Authority in a post on Twitter, adding that scheduled flights to Mombasa were disrupted during the interval but that normal operations have resumed.

"The plane just went down slowly, slowly, slowly, so we just realized probably something was wrong," said a passenger who identified himself as Benoit Lucchini of Paris. He spoke to journalists after leaving the plane in Mombasa.

"The personnel of Air France was just great, they were just wonderful. So they keep everybody calm. We did not know what was happening," said Luchini. "So we secured the seat belt to land in Mombasa because we thought it was a technical problem but actually it was not a technical problem. It was something in the toilet. Something wrong in the toilet, it could be a bomb."

In meeting with Obama, victim families share tears, stories

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP)—At a table inside the Indian Springs High School library, Mandy Pifer sat alone, the last name of her boyfriend killed in the San Bernardino terrorist attack printed on a label in front of her.

Nearby, relatives of the 13 other people killed sat and waited anxiously. Some clutched memorial service programs with the photos and biographies of their deceased. One held the invitation to President Barack Obama's 2009 inauguration his brother-in-law had gleefully obtained.

Pifer wrote out a sign with the words, "I got you."

When President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama entered the room and made their way from one table to the next, spending about 10 minutes with each family Friday evening, the grief, sadness and frustration of the last 17 days were firmly on display.

Some shed tears. Others asked questions. Everyone got a hug.

"It just felt like they were really present in their conversation with me," Pifer said. "They are sick and tired of doing these things, meeting our families."

For nearly three hours, the Obamas met with relatives of the nine men and five women killed Dec. 2 when a married couple opened fire on the husband's colleagues at a work holiday gathering in San Bernardino, about 60 miles east of Los Angeles. Consoling the victims of gun violence has become a grim ritual throughout Obama's presidency. The meeting Friday came as some families are still burying their dead.

AP

In this Dec. 5, 2015, file photo, family members of Isaac Amanios, from left, Robel Tekleab, Fessehatsion Gebreselassie and Abraham Amanios hold a portait of Isaac Amanios in Fontana, Calif.

"My brother will never get his daughter back," said George Velasco, whose niece, Yvette Velasco, 27, was killed. "But at least we know they are taking it very seriously."

When Obama approached the Velasco's family table, he told the family he knew nothing he could say would ever truly comfort them, but that he was sincerely sorry for their loss, Velasco said. The family showed the president a picture of Yvette Velasco on a cellphone and her father told Obama how proud he had been of her work as an inspector with the county Department of Environmental Health.

Obama told them he and his wife were parents too and that, "they cannot imagine a loss like ours."

"I couldn't believe that he was spending that much time with us," Velasco said. "It was heartfelt. I could feel it. It was something he really felt and believed."

The mood in the room was somber, though each family seemed to perk up when Obama arrived at their table. Some families brought many relatives while other chose just one. There were restless toddlers and hungry teenagers. For some, it was the first time they got to meet many of the other families with a relative killed in the attack. They exchanged stories and phone numbers.

The meetings with Obama largely focused on grief, but a few also touched on gun violence and efforts to ban military-style assault weapons. Shooters Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik were armed with two assault rifles and two pistols, investigators have said. Karen Fagan, whose ex-husband Harry Bowman, 46, was killed, said they also spoke about ending hateful rhetoric and bigotry.

"Our hope is that good can arise from the ashes of this tragedy, but that can only happen if we resist the temptation to give into fear and hate," Fagan said in a statement after the meeting.

When Obama reached the family of Isaac Amanios, the family gave him a copy of a pamphlet with Amanios' photo and biography that was handed out at his memorial service. Obama asked Amanios' wife about how long they had been married and about his three children about their lives.

He told Amanios' children that they were his father's legacy.

Amanios, 60, had greatly admired the president and raised money for his 2008 campaign, even though the immigrant from Eritrea was still not eligible to vote, his brother-in-law, Robel Tekleab, said. The family showed Obama the invitation Amanios received to attend his 2009 inauguration.

Obama made a joke about how cold it had been that 2009 day and the family laughed.

"I know it helped tonight," Tekleab said. "I can't speak about the future. But it certainly did a great thing tonight."

Health & Fitness

Flu season off to slower start this year; might be milder

NEW YORK (AP)—This year's flu season seems like old times.

There's not much flu going around so far - unlike the last three seasons when doctors' offices were filled with patients before Christmas and illnesses peaked by late December.

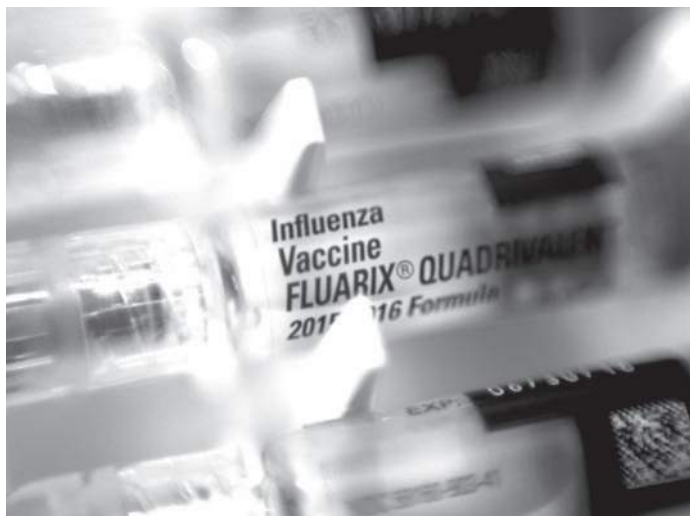
"It really is off to sort of a slow start" compared to that recent history, said Lynnette Brammer of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The CDC released its weekly flu count Friday. Only South Carolina is showing significant flu-related traffic at doctor's offices and clinics.

Traditionally, most flu seasons don't really get going until around Christmas - possibly triggered by holiday gatherings that bring together people and viruses. Infected kids then go back to school, mingle with classmates, and flu season takes off.

Using mathematical modeling, scientists at Los Alamos National Laboratory this week predicted there's a 57 percent chance this flu season will peak in February, and a 67 percent chance it will be mild.

Experts are still puzzling about why flu became epidemic so early the last few years. Factors might include the weather and what kind of flu bug was spreading the most, said Dr. John Treanor, a flu vaccine researcher at the University of Rochester School of Medicine.



This Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015 photo shows single dosage syringes of the Fluarix quadrivalent influenza virus vaccine in New York. AP

The CDC's Brammer said so far this year there's a mix of flu viruses making people sick. In bad seasons, one nasty strain dominates. And last year, the flu vaccine didn't work very well for the bug that caused most of the illnesses. This year's version was changed.

The delayed season means there's more time for people to get vaccinated, Brammer said.

High schools finally listening to scientists by letting teens sleep

SEATTLE (AP)—More school districts around the U.S. are heeding the advice of scientists who have long said that expecting teens to show up to class before 8 a.m. isn't good for their health or their report cards.

The Seattle school board voted last month to adopt an 8:45 a.m. start time beginning next year for all of its high schools and most of its middle schools, joining 70 districts across the nation who adopted a later start time in recent years.

The movement still has a long way to go: There are more than 24,000 U.S. high schools. Supporters expect that such decisions will be made more quickly now that people have mostly stopped debating the underlying science.

Proponents of later start times got a boost last year when the American Academy of Pediatrics said that while starting later isn't a panacea for teen health and academic problems, it can improve students' lives in many other ways.

"Essentially, across the board, any domain that you look at improves pretty dramatically," said Dr. Judy Owens of Boston Children's Hospital and author of the academy's policy statement on teen sleep. After the report, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also pushed for later bell times.

Research studies have shown later start times help combat sleep deprivation in teens, who naturally fall asleep later than their parents would like, and improve academic success, attendance, mental health and cut sleep-related car accidents.

"We're going to look back on this time period and wonder why it took so long," said Phyllis Payne of Start School Later, which helps parents groups advocate for later bell times. She said 49 new local groups have started in the last three years.

The obstacles to change are mostly financial. St. Paul, Minnesota, public schools delayed the adoption of later start times for all its high school students, even after seeing great results in a one-school pilot, because of transportation issues.

The district could not overcome parent complaints about earlier start times for elementary students, which were made necessary because of the new later times for high school students. It would cost St. Paul about $8 million to add more buses, explained Jackie Statum Allen, assistant director for strategic planning and policy.

"It would be much better to put that in the classroom rather than the gas tank," Allen said.

In Seattle, officials encountered the same resistance. Some parents of younger children objected when bus schedules were flipped and their kids were put on an earlier schedule for next year. Some argued that later start times will get in the way of after-school activities like football practice.

The Seattle change was approved in part because the district listened to parent feedback on an initial proposal and made the final plan more expensive but also more popular, said Cindy Jatul, a Seattle teacher and parent and volunteer with Start School Later Seattle.

An effort to move school start times in Chicago failed because the district tried to make the change without community input. "It backfired terribly," said Jatul, who got involved in the effort in Seattle when her kids hit puberty and as a teacher, she was facing groggy teens at home and at school.

Bridget Shelton, a freshman at Seattle's Roosevelt High School, believes the change in bell times will help her move from getting 6-7 hours of sleep to closer to 8 hours next year.

"I know many students that come in and are just struggling to stay awake," she said. "Many of my friends are falling asleep in class."

Katie Benmar, a sophomore, doesn't think the new start time will make anything better. She expects her life will just shift one hour later—from after-school activities to dinner to homework and bed.

"I'm going to bed at midnight and waking up at six," Benmar said of her current schedule, which includes jazz choir after school. "I'm really tired right now."

In Loving Memory of

† *Juan Duenas Cruz*

Lovingly known as ***"John"***. Born to life on June 26, 1951 and was called to his eternal rest on December 16, 2015.

In His New Life, He now joins His:

Mother:	†Maxima Dela Cruz Pangelinan
Special Parents:	†Victoria T. Villagomez & †Juan King
Maternal Grandparents:	†Pedro Cepeda/ †Rufina Villagomez Duenas Dela Cruz
Paternal Grandparents:	†Jose Reyes Pangelinan/ †Maria Reyes Pangelinan
Brothers:	†Pedro Dela Cruz Pangelinan †Norbert Dela Cruz Pangelinan
Sister:	†Agnes Pangelinan Deleon Guerrero
Nephew:	†Emery Joseph Inos Pangelinan
Nieces:	†Carla Mae Pangelinan Benavente †Kalani P. Deleon Guerrero, †Ruth Margaret I. Pangelinan

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Father: Hilarion Reyes Pangelinan

Brothers/Sisters/Spouses/Nieces/Nephews:
David Sablan and Children
†Pedro DLC. & Judith I. Pangelinan, Children/Spouses and Grandchildren
Henry DLC. & Matilde L. Pangelinan, Children/Spouses and Grandchildren
†Agnes P. & Francisco Deleon Guerrero, Children/Spouses and Grandchildren
Martin DLC. & Frances DLR. Pangelinan, Children/Spouses and Grandchildren
Rufina DLC. Pangelinan & Francisco A. Ada, Children/Spouses, Grandchildren and Great Grandson
Oscar DLC. & Franny B. Pangelinan, Children/Spouses and Grandchildren
Rebecca P. & Juan T. Santos, Children/Spouses and Grandchildren
Brenda DLC. Pangelinan/Peter Trinidad, Children/ Spouses and Grandchildren
Leeroy DLC. & Vera T. Pangelinan, Children/Spouses and Grandchildren
Janel DLC. Pangelinan

Reared Sisters/Spouses/Children/Grandchildren:
Maria P. & John Ligmaw, Children/Spouses and Grandchildren
Esther A. & Joaquin V. Deleon Guerrero, Children/Spouses and Grandchildren
Martha V. & Oscar Bantolino, Children/Spouses, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren

He will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.
Mass is being offered at 5:00 am at St. Jude Church in Koblerville.

On Wednesday, December 23, 2015 our beloved's remains will be viewed from 7:30 until 9:00 am at the CHC morgue and will be escorted to San Antonio Church at 9:30 am. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am followed by interment services at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Please Join us in prayers
Thank you - Si Yuus Maase.
Hilarion Reyes Pangelinan and family

In loving memory of

RAYMOND LEONARD SANTOS VILLAGOMEZ

***also known as* Little Sugar Ray**

July 26, 1994 – December 16, 2015

Little Sugar Ray was called to his eternal rest at the age of 21.

In his new life, he joins his

Grandparents: †Vicente Seman Villagomez, †Rosalia Castro Villagomez Mendiola, †Tomas and †Juanita Santos

Aunts and Uncles: †Ana C. Villagomez, †Maria C. Villagomez †Manuel C. Villagomez and †Virginia Villagomez Kalp, †Gregorio Santos, †Carmencita Santos, †David Santos, †Hermilina Santos, †Lilibeth Santos, †Leonardo Santos, †Edwin Frank Aldan Castro

His Spirits and Memories will forever live in the hearts of His:

Parents: Ramon Castro Villagomez and Etrocinia "Zenny" Santos Villagomez

Sweetheart: Daisy Ann Babauta

Siblings: Aries S. Villagomez and Wannida Tann (Ariesalynn, Raymar, Jaeson)
Vincent Thomas S. Villagomez
Shalani Reizanne S. Villagomez

Paternal and Maternal Aunts and Uncles:
Antonia and Tim Winters, Conchita V. Guerrero, Pedro and Peggy Villagomez, Diana and Tony Morton, Frances and Beltran Muna, Rita and Milton O'Haire, Vicente and Bennett S. Villagomez, Dolly Villagomez, Vernon Kalp, Joseph and Monica C. Villagomez, Juan and Maryann Mendiola, Florence Mendiola, Nora Santos, Oliver Santos, Ben Santos, Edna Santos, Salvador and Lilian Santos, Uktavius and Norma Santos, Susan Santos Castro, Samuel and Cynthia Santos, Tomas "Jun" and Winnie Santos, and Juanito and Len Santos

Godparents: Thomas P. Villagomez, Virginia C. Villagomez and Tomas D. Santos, Jr.

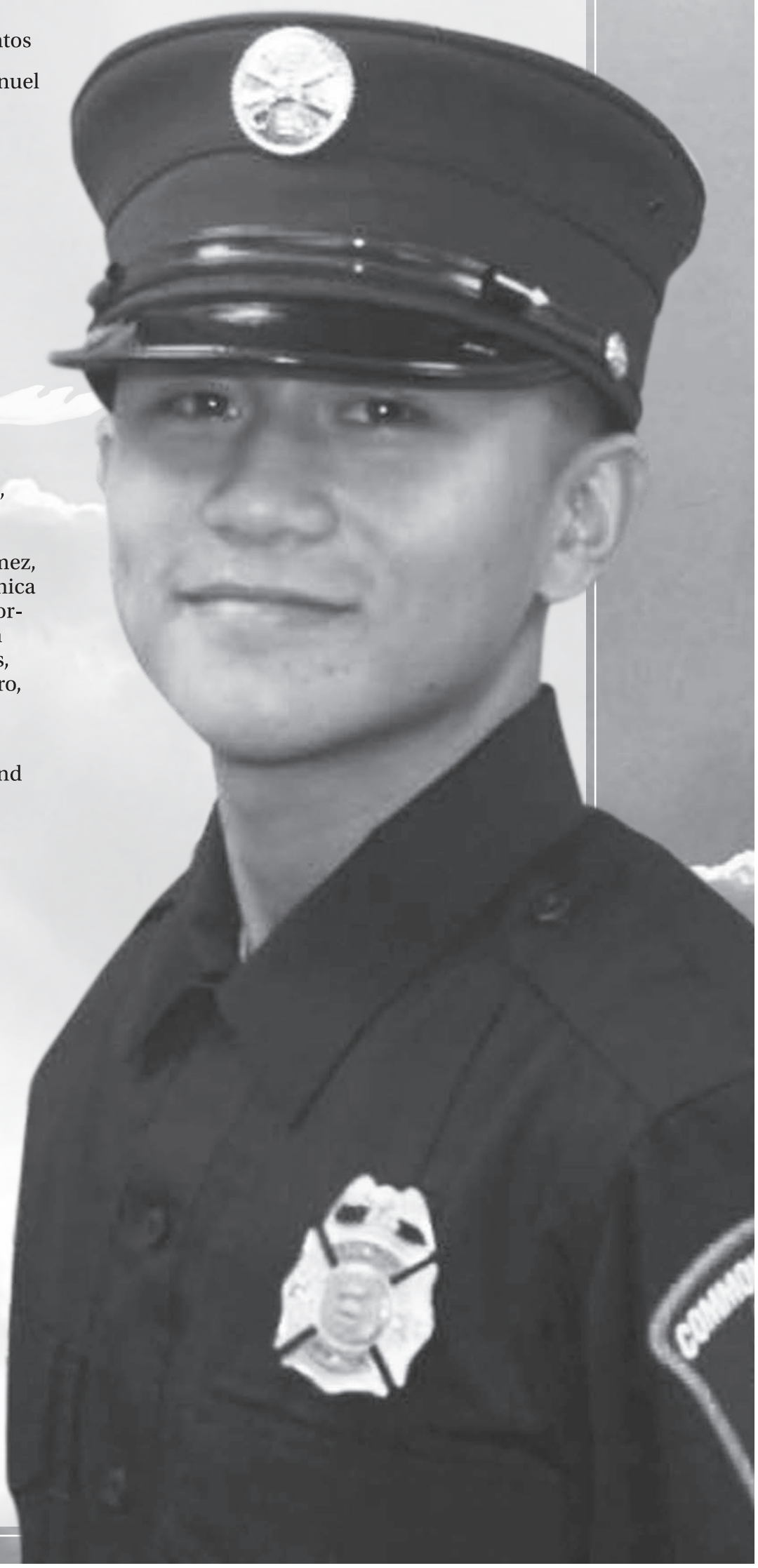
He will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, godchildren and friends.

Daily mass will be offered at 5:00 a.m. and nightly rosary is prayed at 6:00 p.m. both at the Santa Soledad Church in Kagman.

On Wednesday, December 23, 2015 at 7:00 a.m., his remains will be escorted from the Nuestra Senora dela Paz Chapel to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Responso Service will be at 7:30 a.m. followed by Holy Rosary and viewing. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 11:30 a.m. and interment service will be immediately follow after the mass at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

Ramon and Zenny Villagomez and Family



Life & Style

Spain's Mireia Lalaguna Royo wins Miss World title in China

SANYA, China (AP)—Spain's Mireia Lalaguna Royo was named the winner of the Miss World 2015 competition in the southern Chinese island resort of Sanya, an event dogged by controversy over China's refusal to allow Canada's entrant to attend.

Sofia Nikitchuk of Russia was the runner-up and Indonesia's Maria Harfanti took third place in the Saturday night final following a lengthy competition featuring 114 women.

Each had won the right to represent their country in a series of local and regional competitions.

The victory marked the first-ever win for a Spanish contestant.

"I think this is a good decision, because Miss World is not looking for our body, they are looking for a soul," said Lalaguna, a 23-year-old model from Barcelona with a degree in pharmacology who plans to pursue a master's degree in nutrition. She placed first in the competition's top model contest and appeared to impress the judges with her public speaking.

"I think it's important that they don't want to see only our bodies, they are looking for moral things," she said.

Not present was Miss Canada, Chinese-born Anastasia Lin, who had been prevented from boarding her connecting flight to Sanya from Hong Kong last month after China refused her a visa.

AP
Newly crowned Miss World Mireia Lalaguna Royo from Spain, celebrates at the end of the 2015 Miss World Grand Final in Sanya in south China's Hainan province Saturday Dec. 19, 2015.

Lin is an outspoken critic of Chinese religious policy and a follower of the Falun Gong meditation practice, which was outlawed by China in 1999.

She said that after she won the Canadian title, Chinese security agents visited her father, who still lives in China, in an apparent attempt to intimidate her into silence.

China has hosted the competition seven times, starting in 2003, as part of its attempts to project a more modern, outgoing image. However, the controversy over Lin's attendance illustrates the authoritarian communist government's determination to do so on its own terms, regardless of the cost to the country's reputation.

Neither Beijing nor the London-based Miss World Organization has commented on the controversy.

It was the second consecutive year that outside events intruded on the competition. Last year's contest in London was marred by the murder the month before of Miss Honduras and her sister in that country.

The first Miss World contest was held 64 years ago in Britain.

FBI files: Military questioned Pete Seeger's wartime loyalty

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—As Army Pvt. Pete Seeger eagerly waited for a chance to fight for his country during World War II, military investigators quietly built a case that the young folk singer was "potentially subversive."

In a security investigation triggered by a wartime letter he wrote denouncing a proposal to deport all Japanese-Americans, the Army intercepted Seeger's mail to his fiancee, scoured his school records, talked to his father, interviewed an ex-landlord and questioned his pal Woody Guthrie, according to FBI files obtained by The Associated Press.

Investigators concluded that Seeger's association with known communists and his Japanese-American fiancee pointed to a risk of divided loyalty.

Seeger's "Communistic sympathies, his unsatisfactory relations with landlords and his numerous Communist and otherwise undesirable friends, make him unfit for a position of trust or responsibility," according to a military intelligence report.

The investigation, forwarded to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, is detailed in more than 1,700 pages from Seeger's FBI file, released by the National Archives under the Freedom of Information Act.

AP
In this April 4, 1961, file photo, Pete Seeger, with a banjo slung over his shoulder, is accompanied by his wife, Toshi, as he arrives at the federal court in New York for sentencing on a conviction for contempt of Congress. The Federal Bureau of Investigation released more than 1,700 pages of documents it collected on the folk singer.

The musician and left-wing activist known for such songs as "If I Had a Hammer," ''Where Have All the Flowers Gone" and "Turn, Turn, Turn" died in January 2014 at age 94.

The government's interest in Seeger is no surprise. He was a member of the Communist Party for a period of time, as he later acknowledged, saying he quit around 1950, and he performed with Guthrie and others in the proudly leftist Almanac Singers before he was drafted.

But the newly released files show the lengths to which the government went to keep tabs on the singer's travels, performances and rally appearances at least into the 1970s. The archives plan to release additional Seeger files in the future.

The degree to which the security investigation affected his military career is not spelled out in the files. Seeger trained as an airplane mechanic at Keesler Field in Mississippi and, according to his file, expressed frustration that he was being kept stateside instead of being sent to where the fighting was. Ultimately, the singer and banjo player spent time in the Special Services, entertaining soldiers in the South Pacific, and made corporal.

Error coin, a dime struck onto a nail, is headed to auction

NEW YORK (AP)—Is it a dime? Or is it a nail?

In probably one of the oddest items to come to the world of coin collecting, Dallas-based Heritage Auctions has announced the sale of a Roosevelt dime that was accidentally (or some say deliberately) struck onto a zinc nail.

Yes, that piece of ironmongery used to repair your roof.

The dime/nail is estimated to be worth roughly $10,000.

In the billions of coins it has made over its history, the U.S. Mint has made more than a few errors. There were Lincoln pennies that were struck onto the material for a dime, Washington quarters struck more than once, wrong dates on coins, etc. Most errors are caught by the Mint, but occasionally a few make it out into circulation. Those error coins have been highly sought by collectors.

This error coin coming to auction in January in Tampa, Florida, is one of the more bizarre errors to come to public attention. In a weird linguistic twist, another name for the 2-inch nail is a sixpenny nail.

"It is certainly the most unusual item I have had to catalog in my career," said Mark Borckardt, the senior numismatist at Heritage New York-based Auctions. A numismatist is person who studies or collects coins or bank notes.

AP
This photo provided by Heritage Auctions shows a Roosevelt Dime that was minted onto a nail.

It is not the first coin printed onto a nail, however, said Fred Weinberg, a coin dealer considered one of the top experts in error coins. A few pennies in the late 1970s were struck onto nails. This dime/nail is undated, so there is no way to tell when the item was created. Weinberg said it is possible the dime/nail was made on purpose by a rogue Mint employee.

Despite it not being one of a kind, Weinberg says, there are probably only about a half dozen coin/nail examples known and only two dimes. He expects the dime/nail to sell for roughly $10,000, but public interest could raise that amount.

A spokesman for the U.S. Mint was unavailable to answer the question of whether the nail/dime is considered valid currency.

The Heritage auction that includes the nail/dime also includes several other notable error coins. There will be a 1943 Lincoln penny struck in bronze, which would seem not out of the ordinary except for the fact that the U.S. Mint changed the composition of the penny in 1943 to steel to save copper for the war effort. 1943 bronze pennies typically sell for $200,000 to $300,000.

On the flip side, Heritage will also be auctioning a 1944 penny that was struck in steel, not bronze.

Force Awakens' crosses $250M globally after record Friday

NEW YORK (AP)—"Star Wars: The Force Awakens" has already surpassed $100 million in North America and $250 million globally, setting it up for a record-breaking weekend.

The Walt Disney Co. on Saturday said the film made an estimated $120.5 million from Thursday night previews and opening day Friday. That smashes the previous opening day record of $91.1 million, set by 2011's "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part 2." (Studios count Thursday night grosses as part of opening day.)

Disney is projecting a domestic weekend total of around $220 million, which would surpass the record $208.8 million of "Jurassic World." It's a type of release never before seen in December, where the previous top opening was 2012's "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" with $84.6 million. The latest "Star Wars" is playing in 4,134 North American theaters, the widest December release ever.

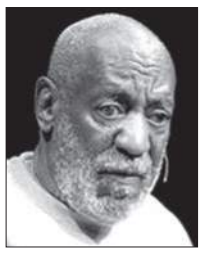
But "The Force Awakens" is riding a wave of hype, nostalgia and positive reviews from critics and fans alike. J.J. Abrams' seventh chapter in George Lucas' saga has earned an A CinemaScore from moviegoers who have flooded theaters nationwide. Some $100 million in advance tickets were sold for the movie's Thursday night debut.

Since beginning its overseas rollout Wednesday, "The Force Awakens" has made an estimated $129.5 million internationally.

"Jurassic World," an unexpected sensation in June, also holds the global weekend opening record with $524.9 million, a number "The Force Awakens" could well exceed.

This photo provided by Disney/Lucasfilm shows Daisy Ridley, right, as Rey, and BB-8, in a scene from the film, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," directed by J.J. Abrams. AP

Cosby lawyers fight deposition of his wife in lawsuit



Cosby

BOSTON (AP)—Lawyers for Bill Cosby said Friday they will fight an attempt to require his wife to give a sworn deposition in a defamation lawsuit filed by seven women who accuse the comedian of sexually assaulting them decades ago.

A lawyer for the women has subpoenaed Camille Cosby to be deposed on Jan. 6. at a hotel in Springfield, Massachusetts.

But Cosby's lawyers filed a motion Friday to quash the subpoena, saying she has no first-hand, non-repetitive knowledge of issues in the lawsuit. They also argue that any confidential communications between Cosby and his wife are protected by the Massachusetts spousal disqualification rule.

The women's lawyer, Joseph Cammarata, had argued that he should be able to question Camille Cosby because she was her husband's business manager.

"I think she has information that's relevant to the litigation in this matter," Cammarata said Friday.

Cosby's lawyers said Camille Cosby does not have any information about the accuracy of the women's allegations. They also allege that the attempt to subject her to a deposition is "nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt to pressure defendant in the face of subjecting his wife to the shame and embarrassment of responding to questions about his alleged infidelities and sexual misconduct."

The seven women suing Cosby for defamation in federal court in Springfield are among approximately 50 women who have come forward over the last year alleging that he sexually assaulted or had unwanted sexual contact with them decades ago. They claim in their suit that Cosby allowed his representatives to portray them as liars after they went public with their allegations.

Cosby, 78, filed a countersuit against the women earlier this week, accusing them of making false allegations of sexual misconduct for financial gain. He said the women have "engaged in a campaign to assassinate" his reputation and character.

Star Wars mania comes to the White House

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House has caught Star Wars mania.

President Barack Obama began his year-end press conference Friday by letting reporters know their meeting wouldn't be the most important event taking place Friday.

That honor went to a special screening of "The Force Awakens" for Gold Star families who have lost relatives to combat- or service-related injuries.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest also got into the spirit, posing for pictures with R2-D2 and two Stormtroopers in the press briefing room. R2-D2 also interacted with reporters by playing the Star Wars theme song and some patriotic tunes.

Obama left the press conference saying he needed to get to "Star Wars." He has not yet issued a presidential review.

Actor James Cromwell arrested at power plant protest

WAWAYANDA, N.Y. (AP)—Actor James Cromwell was among six people arrested at an upstate New York power plant that is under construction.

The Times Herald-Record of Middletown reports (http://bit.ly/1NujHID) the 75-year-old actor whose work includes "Babe," ''American Horror Story" and "L.A. Confidential" was arrested Friday after leading a chant among a group of protesters.

New York State Police say the six protesters who were arrested blocked an entrance to the construction site at the Competitive Power Ventures power plant in Orange County. They were arrested on disorderly conduct charges and ordered to appear in court in January.

Protesters have said they believe toxins from the plant may cause health issues and lower property value in the area.

Cromwell was nominated for an Academy Award for best supporting actor for 1995's "Babe."

Discovery heads to Oregon town for 'Deadliest Catch' spinoff

NEW YORK (AP)—Makers of the popular Discovery network series "Deadliest Catch" are heading south to a fishing village in Oregon for a spinoff.

The new series, called "Deadliest Catch: Dungeon Cove," is set to premiere next fall. It will focus on families involved in the Dungeness crab fishing industry in Newport, Oregon, the network said Friday.

The announcement doesn't mean that the original series, which is set to begin its 12th season in the spring, is winding down, said Joseph Boyle, Discovery's executive producer for the show. Discovery executives were intrigued by the spinoff proposal from Original Productions, which makes "Deadliest Catch," he said. The original series, about fishing boats in Alaska's Bering Sea, is one of the network's signature programs.

The industry around Newport was interesting to Discovery because fishermen race to catch as many fish as they can during a season, as opposed to working with a quota, he said.

"It's every man for yourself," Boyle said. "They go out there and fish their hearts out."

The boats also need to navigate massive waves, sandbars and currents.

"It's just treachery on the water," he said. "It's a very, very deadly and dangerous place to fish."

Discovery hasn't decided whether the new show will begin after the upcoming season of the original series ends sometime in the fall or if they will overlap, he said.

Single woman hopes to break pattern of dating abusive men

DEAR ABBY: I am turning 40 and have never been married. Lately, on dates, men have started asking me why I've never married. It makes me uncomfortable, and I don't know how to answer them.

I have always been attracted to emotionally abusive men and have always been the one to break things off. I was abused as a child and was also a victim of sexual trauma. I'm not sure if this is why abusive men keep showing up in my life.

I'd like to meet someone who is kind and stable. Is it too late, and how do I answer the question as to why I've never been married?

FOREVER SINGLE IN CHICAGO

DEAR FOREVER SINGLE: Because someone asks a question does not compel you to do a psychological striptease. A way to answer without baring your soul would be to say that you haven't met the right man yet. (If you are attracted to abusive men, that's the truth.)

People are usually attracted to the familiar. Because of your background, you may not pick up on warning signs that might alert others that there is trouble ahead. This does not mean it's too late for you to find a caring, supportive life partner -- however, you might have an easier time of accomplishing it if you schedule some sessions with a licensed mental health professional. Old habits are hard to break, but it can be done.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: When my husband passed away four years ago, I donated his corneas to a local organization. I was told the donor family could write a letter to the recipients, who remain anonymous, telling them a little something about the donor but without divulging any personal data. I finally felt up to doing it a couple of years after the funeral.

I sent the letters to the organization, which forwarded them to the recipients. I was told not to expect a reply. I learned that two women in California had each received one of my husband's corneas.

I have not heard from either of these ladies, which I really don't understand. I don't want a pat on the back, but I'd love to know how the corneas changed their lives. It would help me know that my husband's death was not in vain.

WIDOW IN WASHINGTON STATE

DEAR WIDOW: Your husband's death was not in vain. You did a wonderful thing in offering his corneas so that others might see. Not every surviving relative is as brave as you were to do that.

Frankly, it's hard to guess why you haven't heard from the recipients. I can't imagine that they aren't extremely grateful for what you did. However, many people have great difficulty expressing their feelings on paper. The lucky individuals who were given those corneas may be among them.

■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

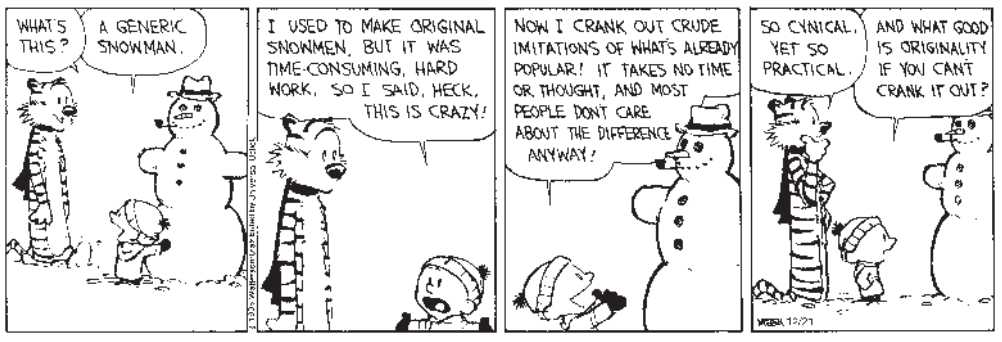
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

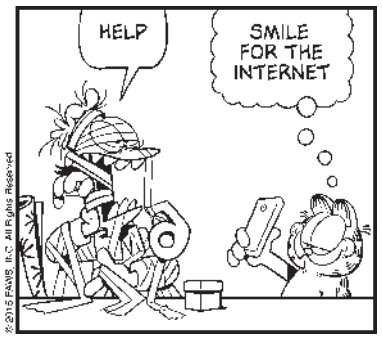
By Bill Waterson


WHAT'S THIS?
A GENERIC SNOWMAN.
I USED TO MAKE ORIGINAL SNOWMEN, BUT IT WAS TIME-CONSUMING, HARD WORK. SO I SAID, HECK, THIS IS CRAZY!
NOW I CRANK OUT CRUDE IMITATIONS OF WHAT'S ALREADY POPULAR! IT TAKES NO TIME OR THOUGHT, AND MOST PEOPLE DON'T CARE ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE ANYWAY!
SO CYNICAL. YET SO PRACTICAL.
AND WHAT GOOD IS ORIGINALITY IF YOU CAN'T CRANK IT OUT?

Garfield®

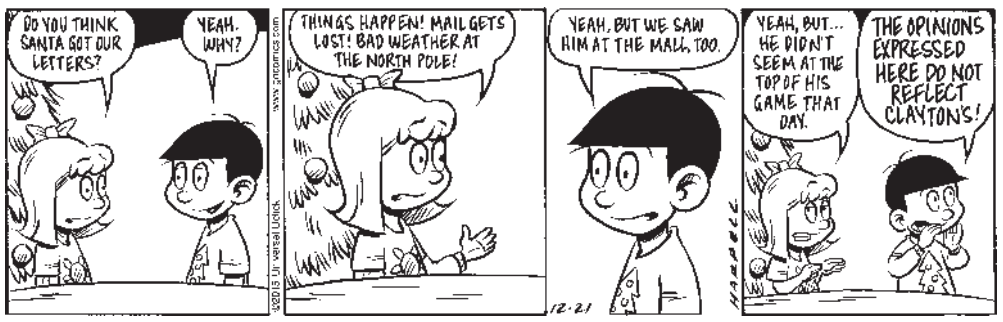
By Jim Davis

five minutes later:



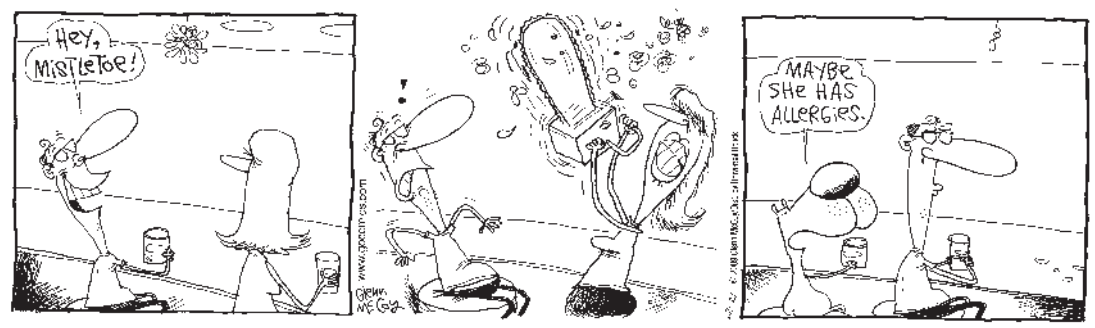
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DO YOU THINK SANTA GOT OUR LETTERS?
YEAH. WHY?
THINGS HAPPEN! MAIL GETS LOST! BAD WEATHER AT THE NORTH POLE!
YEAH, BUT WE SAW HIM AT THE MALL, TOO.
YEAH, BUT... HE DIDN'T SEEM AT THE TOP OF HIS GAME THAT DAY.
THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED HERE DO NOT REFLECT CLAYTON'S!
©2013 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com
12-21

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

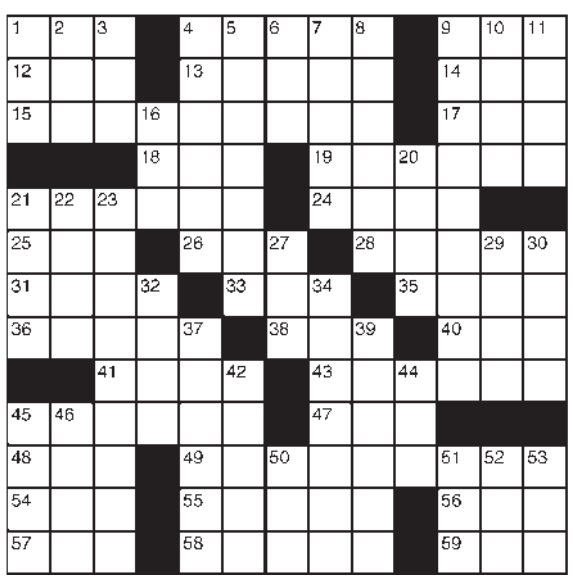
ACROSS
1 Uncooked
4 Actress Sonia
9 "Kapow!"
12 Prefix for "verse"
13 Vowel group
14 Soccer chant
15 007's women, in film
17 Born
18 — Moines
19 Lash out at
21 Smears in print
24 Certain tide
25 Old Tokyo
26 Deli hero
28 Town near Tarry-town, NY
31 Boatloads
33 Triage ctrs.
35 Ms. Bombeck
36 "Get Here" singer Adams
38 Rm. coolers
40 Mr. Turkey
41 Magazine sales info
43 Daughter of Zeus
45 Gung-ho
47 Caviar
48 "The Greatest"
49 "Have a good trip!"
54 Scully or Diesel
55 Sale tag abbr.
56 Speed (up)
57 LAX info
58 Halt
59 Nemesis

DOWN
1 Massage
2 Juanita's year
3 Victory
4 Hole foods?
5 Print anew
6 Lung filler
7 — Heights (Mideast area)
8 "Emma" author
9 Napoleon —
10 Actor Guinness
11 Docile
16 JFK's predecessor
20 "Rent" actor Diggs
21 Jared of "Panic Room"
22 Teen fave
23 Fine tableware
27 Bikini top
29 "Let's go!"
30 — Sutra
32 Hubbub
34 Neck warmers
37 Mideast language
39 Fall guy
42 Farm task
44 "Listen!"
45 5-star review
46 Landed
50 Gun-rights gp.
51 "Woof!"
52 Intro to "logical"
53 Night before

Solution time: 26 mins.

D	I	D	■	M	E	T	■	R	I	F	T	S
O	N	A	■	O	R	E	■	O	R	B	I	T
D	U	N	■	J	U	S	T	A	K	I	S	S
O	R	S	■	O	P	T	E	D	■	■	■	■
S	E	E	M	■	■	S	A	■	S	E	A	M
■	■	■	Y	R	S	■	■	K	U	L	A	N	G
A	W	G	E	E	■	■	■	S	A	T	Y	R
C	O	R	R	A	I	■	T	I	C	■	■	■
H	E	R	S	■	U	G	H	■	K	N	I	T
■	■	■	S	■	E	E	L	■	A	N	I	■
M	I	S	T	L	E	T	O	■	P	A	M	■
C	O	C	O	A	■	T	R	■	■	E	L	M
S	U	I	N	G	■	O	Y	S	■	S	L	Y

Friday's answer 12-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kiefer Sutherland, 49; Ray Romano, 58; Samuel L. Jackson, 67; Jane Fonda, 78.

Happy Birthday: Concentrate on learning and making personal changes that will help you feel confident and able to accomplish your dreams. Don't let what's happened in the past leave you pessimistic or distrusting. Recognize what you want to do and make a point to achieve your goals. Don't fall short because of negativity or anger. Live in the moment. Your numbers are 7, 9, 16, 24, 32, 35, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You don't have to spend a lot to impress others. Your time, talent and assistance will be more than enough to satisfy the people you care about most. An unusual proposal or contract will be offered. Don't hesitate. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Tie up any loose ends you've left dangling. Concentrate on planning short trips and getting things organized. An unusual gift will leave you confused. Romance is the best thing you can offer to that special person in your life. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Expect to hit some roadblocks. Not everyone will think the way you do. It's best not to argue if you want to get things done. An unexpected event at work will put you in a good position. Show your enthusiasm. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Keep an open mind when dealing with others. An unusual idea will turn out to have more merit than expected. Make it a point to engage in friendly banter with business and personal partners. 4 stars

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Emotional matters will mount if you don't find a workable solution. A gift or financial gain will come from an unusual source. Before you accept, consider what's expected in return. A business celebration is best handled professionally. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Make plans to get together with old friends. Catching up will bring back memories and give you a chance to consider whether you are heading in the right direction. Travel plans can be made and homecomings will be enlightening. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Deal with some unfinished business. Difficult situations at home should be handled openly. Be responsible, but don't feel obligated to take on someone else's problems. Update your image and your resume. Keep the peace and look out for anyone trying to pick a fight. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You'll be surprised by what someone does or offers you. Helping out in your community or volunteering for a cause you believe in looks promising and fruitful. What you offer will be greeted with interest and enthusiasm. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Be a participant, but don't go overboard. Indulgence may be tempting, but it's best to maintain a stellar reputation. Avoid getting involved in gossip or being the one who is being talked about. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Take care of last-minute purchases and add touches to your home that will make it magical for the festive season. Plan to host a get-together for the people who matter to you. An offer you receive will change your life. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take your time and see what everyone around you does before you make a commitment. Don't share your feelings until you know where you stand and whether or not it will be beneficial. Consider making changes to suit your growing needs. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Sharing information and making donations will raise your profile. A partnership will take you by surprise, but should be handled with confidence. Negotiate and you will get what you want. Put time aside to spend with someone special. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are conservative, determined and aggressive. You are precise and thorough.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4						7	9
2		3	9			4		5
	6			5	7		3	
	9				1	8		
		5				7		
		4	8				9	
	5		2	9			6	
9		1			4	5		3
4	2						8	

Difficulty Level ★ 12/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

9	6	5	7	8	1	3	2	4
4	3	1	2	6	5	8	7	9
7	2	8	4	9	3	6	1	5
5	7	6	9	1	2	4	8	3
8	4	2	3	7	6	5	9	1
1	9	3	5	4	8	7	6	2
3	5	7	8	2	9	1	4	6
6	8	9	1	3	4	2	5	7
2	1	4	6	5	7	9	3	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/21

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

SEASON FINALES Solution: 8 letters

C	L	I	F	F	H	A	N	G	E	R	S	S	H	B
P	R	A	I	S	E	T	O	C	O	M	E	(D)	Y	R
S	P	I	N	E	S	O	L	C	W	L	P	(A)	R	E
R	E	C	H	I	L	L	E	R	B	O	O	(T)	O	A
O	A	V	W	N	F	S	S	A	R	V	R	(E)	T	K
M	S	T	L	C	O	E	C	K	E	E	T	R	S	U
A	H	D	I	O	G	I	I	Y	V	A	E	H	O	P
N	O	G	R	N	S	R	T	R	E	M	I	T	M	S
C	W	I	I	A	G	E	I	A	A	P	A	C	E	R
E	S	D	N	H	M	S	R	I	L	L	A	F	D	E
D	N	L	A	D	N	A	C	S	S	U	U	G	I	L
E	Y	S	R	E	V	O	R	T	N	O	C	P	A	I
R	E	T	U	R	N	E	D	O	S	I	P	E	O	O
I	A	E	M	I	R	C	W	E	I	V	E	R	P	P
A	R	H	C	T	A	W	E	S	N	E	P	S	U	S

© 2015 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 12/21

Aired, Breakups, Cable, Chiller, Cliffhanger, Close, Comedy, Controversy, Crime, Critics, Date, Drama, Ending, Episode, Fall, Final, Heavy, High, Iconic, Love, Media, Popular, Praise, Preview, Ratings, Recap, Resolve, Return, Reveals, Romance, Scandal, Series, Shows, Sorrow, Speculation, Spin, Spoilers, Story, Suspense, Time, Tropes, Twist, Watch, Year

Last Friday's Answer: Accident

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

KIMCO ENTERPRISES INC.
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(1) Translator - $6.05/hr
Must be fluent in Korean

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TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, December 22, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS[1]

III. REPORTS
- A. Chair's Report
- B. Executive Director's Report

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- A. Re-opening of Tinian Dynasty Casino

V. NEW BUSINESS
- A. HKE bankruptcy matter
- B. Commission Reorganization
- C. Casino Employee License/Registration Applications

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION[2]

VII. MISCELLANEOUS/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

[1] Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

"I want to go shopping!"
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Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

Francisco C. Cabrera
dba Design Florist/Cabrera Funeral

Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Assistant Funeral Director

(1) Funeral Service Assistant
- Must have a driver's license.
- Able to work flexible hours.
- Good personality.

All interested applicant must apply in person.
Cabrera Center Bldg., Beach Road, Garapan

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or call 670-233-4348. Applications are being accepted Monday - Friday, 8:30a.m. to 5:00p.m. and on Saturday, 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m., at Ironwood Community Center on Middle Road, Gualo Rai.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

CNMI WIC WOMEN • INFANTS • CHILDREN

The CNMI WIC Program is looking for the following:

Lactation Consultation

Major Tasks:
Brief description of project: A WIC Lactation Consultant holds the International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) credential issued by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners, which enables the IBCLC to handle more complex breastfeeding problems, provide technical assistance on lactation for staff, and provide program oversight.

The WIC Lactation Consultant:
1. Provides weekly scheduled call or video chat online with the CNMI WIC Program breastfeeding staff (1 hour). This would provide an opportunity to discuss issues of the week, and address training needs.
2. Provides remote breastfeeding consults via phone or video chat online, as needed. The schedule and time will be discussed and agreed upon. This would provide a two-fold opportunity to assist moms and train staff.
3. Provides assistance with WIC breastfeeding policy development.
4. Follows the IBCL Scope of Practice as issued by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners.
5. Respect each client by keeping her information strictly confidential.
6. Keeps accurate record of all contacts made with WIC clients in HANDS (Health and Nutrition Delivery System)
7. Not to exceed 56 hours.

Qualification:
- Holds current certification with the IBCLC credential issued by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners. Maintain IBCLC credential and breastfeeding knowledge and skills through continuing education and IBCLC recertification.
- Is enthusiastic about breastfeeding and wants to help other mothers enjoy a positive experience.
- Has demonstrated leadership and training skills. Most especially in the field of breastfeeding and WIC.
- A minimum of at least three (3) years experience in management in WIC and breastfeeding. This includes experience with breastfeeding policies and procedures in WIC.
- Can work as needed or on call depending on the needs of the WIC agency.
- Has a telephone and computer with online video chat capabilities, and is available to accept referrals during CNMI WIC clinic hours.
- Has access to a computer and is proficient in basic computer software and/or feels comfortable learning new software used by the agency.
- Has a good customer service skills, relating to persons of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and communicating in a professional, courteous, and tactful manner.
- Is able to remain calm and exercise judgement in unusual or stressful situations.

Proof shall include the following:
- Proof of documents or credentials International Board of Certified Lactation Consultant (IBLCLC)
- Statement of Approach with Rates

Last day of proposal is on January 11, 2016 by end of business day.

Thank you!

P.O. Box 502509 CK, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 664-4067
Fax: (670) 664-4069

WHATZIT Solution: Spot check

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

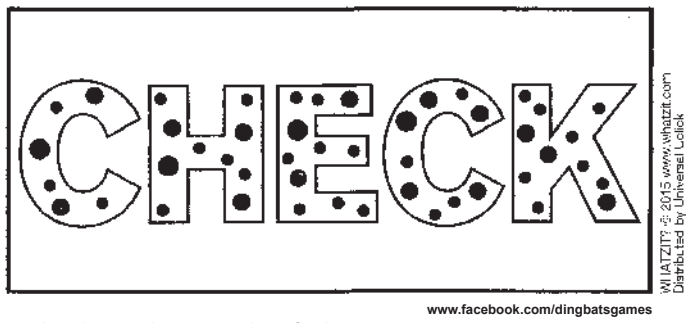
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in classified section

Jets top Cowboys, keep pressure on in AFC wild card

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Ryan Fitzpatrick threw his first interception in almost a month and probably should have ended up with one or two more.

Still, the New York quarterback was on target when he needed to be, and the Jets kept the pressure on Pittsburgh and Kansas City in the race for two wild-card spots in the AFC.

Randy Bullock kicked a 40-yard field goal with 36 seconds left and the Jets moved a half-game ahead of the Steelers and Chiefs with a 19-16 victory over the Dallas Cowboys on Saturday night.

Fitzpatrick's 43-yard pass to Kenbrell Thompkins put the Jets (9-5) in position for their first four-game winning streak since 2010.

"Kind of had tough sledding for a while," Fitzpatrick said. "There's going to be adversity throughout the game and I thought that was a great sign for us to show that the belief is always there. This is a winning football team."

Kellen Moore replaced an ineffective Matt Cassel at quarterback and gave the Cowboys (4-10) a spark, but it wasn't enough to keep last year's NFC East champions from being eliminated with two games remaining.

Eric Decker caught a 3-yard scoring pass to set a franchise record with Brandon Marshall with 21 combined touchdowns receiving as the Jets won their fourth straight for the first time since 2010.

Fitzpatrick threw his first interception since Nov. 22 to give the Cowboys a field goal and a 13-9 lead in the third quarter, but came back to direct a 70-yard drive to Decker's score. He finished 26 of 39 for 299 yards.

"He made some timely throws," Jets coach Todd Bowles said. "He took a bunch of hits during the game. They weren't clicking like they have been the last couple of weeks, but he was calm and he was good and the guys believed in him."

Decker and Marshall broke the franchise mark of 20 combined TDs that they shared with Art Powell-Don Maynard (1960) and Al Toon-Wesley Walker (1986).

Dan Bailey tied it at 16 on a 50-yard field goal that caromed through off the right upright with 1:55 remaining. Moore got the tying drive going by sneaking a pass behind Buster Skrine for a 23-yard gain to Cole Beasley.

The first play after a near-fumble by Fitzpatrick on a sneak for a first down was held up on review, Thompkins got behind rookie cornerback Byron Jones along the sideline before stepping out of bounds at the Dallas 26.

The last chance for the Cowboys ended on Moore's third interception when his desperation heave for Dez Bryant went over the outstretched arm of the All-Pro receiver and was caught by Marcus Williams. The Cowboys had four interceptions overall.

"We all start with aspirations," said Jason Garrett, who had already clinched his first losing season as Dallas coach. "For some teams it works out and you get to play in the playoffs. For us this year, that is not going to happen. But that doesn't diminish the work everyone has put in."

Cassel was replaced after two bumbling plays in the first half.

On the first, he stumbled trying to change directions after faking a throw and threw to blindly to a spot where Darrelle Revis was by himself for the easy interception. Cassel came out the series after taking a 19-yard sack, which wasn't long after he left the field to loud boos following a three-and-out.

Moore played in the regular season for the first time in four years in the NFL. His second pass was intercepted by Marcus Gilchrist, but he rebounded to beat a New York blitz by slinging the ball in the flat to Bryant, who got around Revis for the touchdown and a 10-9 lead.

Moore, the fourth quarterback used by Dallas this year with Tony Romo twice breaking his left collarbone, had a chance to add to that lead but threw his second interception to Calvin Pryor in the end zone in the third quarter.

But Fitzpatrick then threw it directly to Terrance Mitchell for the first interception by a Dallas cornerback this season. Mitchell was signed to the practice squad and activated this week after a hamstring injury sidelined Morris Claiborne.

AP

New York Jets wide receiver Eric Decker (87) loses the ball after a catch as he is held down by Dallas Cowboys' Byron Jones (31) and Barry Church (42), while outside linebacker Sean Lee (50) watches in the first half of an NFL football game, Saturday, Dec. 19, 2015, in Arlington, Texas. The Jets retained control of the ball after a video review.

Rockies, Ottavino agree on 3-year extension

DENVER (AP)—A person with knowledge of the situation says the Colorado Rockies and right-handed reliever Adam Ottavino have agreed on a three-year extension.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Saturday because the deal has yet to be announced.

Ottavino underwent Tommy John surgery on his right elbow in May. The team is hoping to have him back sometime around the All-Star break.

The 30-year-old Ottavino went on the disabled list in late April with right triceps inflammation soon after he was promoted to closer. Ottavino didn't surrender a run in 10 1-3 innings last season.

Originally selected by St. Louis in the first round of the 2006 draft, Ottavino was acquired off waivers by Colorado in 2012.

Colby Lewis is staying with the Rangers.

In Texas, the AL West champion Rangers and the pitcher have agreed on a $6 million, one-year contract, a person familiar with the deal said Friday. That person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal is pending a physical on the pitcher's surgically repaired right knee, and that exam likely won't happen until after the holidays.

Lewis was a free agent after setting career highs last season and leading the Rangers with 17 wins and 204 2/3 innings. The 36-year-old right-hander has won 27 games over the past two seasons since a hip resurfacing procedure that was unprecedented for a major league pitcher.

In October, only two days after the Rangers lost Game 5 of the AL Division Series to Toronto, Lewis had torn meniscus repaired in his right knee, which bothered himfor much of the second half of last season. He is expected to be ready for spring training.

If Lewis passes his physical, it would line up the Rangers to go into the 2016 season with the likely rotation including left-handers Cole Hamels, Derek Holland and Martin Perez, along with Lewis. Ace right-hander Yu Darvish expected to return in May after missing all of last season because of Tommy John surgery.

Lewis is 71-67 with a 4.81 ERA over 10 major league seasons, eight of those with the Rangers.

He was a first-round supplemental choice of the Rangers during the 1999 amateur draft and made his big league debut in 2002. He had right shoulder surgery in early 2004 before sitting out all of 2005. He then pitched for Detroit and Oakland and spent two years in Japan before returning to Texas in 2010 and being part of the Rangers' only World Series appearances.

After going 4-1 with a 2.34 ERA in eight postseason starts in 2010 and 2011, Lewis was hampered by injuries. He had surgery in July 2012 to repair a torn flexor tendon in his right elbow.

His comeback from that was thwarted by the troublesome hip that had bothered him for some time before he had the resurfacing procedure in August 2013 that was just short of a full hip replacement. He was 10-14 with a 5.18 ERA in 29 starts in 2014, but had a 3.86 ERA with two complete games while averaging 6 2/3 innings in 13 starts after the All-Star break that season.

SIDEBAR

Brady listed as questionable vs Titans

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady was listed on the team's injury report Friday with an illness that made him questionable Sunday against the Tennessee Titans.

Brady did not practice with the team, according to the injury report.

Since he took over when Drew Bledsoe was injured in Week 2 of the 2001 season, Brady has played in every game of every season except for 2008, when he was injured in the first quarter of the opener and missed the rest of the season.

Backup Jimmy Garoppolo has appeared in four games this season and has not thrown a pass this year.

The injury report also said linebackers Eric Martin (concussion) and Jonathan Freeny (hand) would miss Sunday's game. Receiver Julian Edelman is doubtful, meaning he is likely to miss his fifth straight game since breaking his foot.

Meanwhile, Ben Roethlisberger didn't like a low hit from Cincinnati Bengals linebacker Vontaze Burfict last Sunday, and it turns out the NFL wasn't pleased with it either.

Burfict seemed to dive at Roethlisberger's legs in the first half last week. The Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback spoke out about it, saying he thought Burfict intentionally went low on him. The NFL agreed and fined Burfict $34,700 for that hit, and about $70,000 overall for three violations according to NFL Network's Ian Rapoport.

The Bengals-Steelers game was heated. There was a pregame fight that probably stemmed from Steelers linebacker Vince Williams making threats toward Burfict on Twitter after the first meeting. Then Burfict, who has a history of temper issues dating back to Arizona State (he went undrafted due to off-field red flags despite his enormous talent), tried to take out Roethlisberger's legs on a pass rush.

"I think that he definitely was diving in low and going for my legs," Roethlisberger told Sportsradio 93-7 earlier this week.

Roethlisberger also said during the interview that there was more "quote unquote, kind of dirty, extracurricular stuff throughout the game" than he had ever been a part of in a game.

Burfict had a couple unnecessary roughness incidents to go with the low hit on Roethlisberger. And because of some questionable plays, Burfict has to write a huge check to the NFL.

Durant leads Thunder over Bryant-less Lakers

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Kobe Bryant may not have made the difference. Either way, the Oklahoma City Thunder had little trouble with the Los Angeles Lakers on Saturday

With Bryant out with a sore right shoulder, the Thunder stars had their way. Kevin Durant had 22 points and eight rebounds, Russell Westbrook had 13 points and 11 assists and Oklahoma City beat the Lakers 118-78 for its eighth straight home victory.

Enes Kanter had 19 points and 14 rebounds, and Westbrook had his 18th double-double of the season for Oklahoma City. The Thunder won for the fifth straight time against the Lakers.

The Lakers' point total was their second-lowest this season and the lowest by an Oklahoma City opponent since the Thunder beat the Miami Heat 93-75 on March 22. The Thunder led by as many as 46 points and flirted with breaking their record for margin of victory, which is 45 points.

"We just tried to make the right play every time down and defensively, we just tried to cover for each other," Durant said. "We came in at halftime and coach (Billy Donovan) said we've got to still stick with our principles and still play the game the right way and I think we did a good job."

With Bryant out, the Lakers started seldom-used rookie Anthony Brown in his place. Lou Williams scored 20 points and Jordan Clarkson added 15 for Los Angeles, but the Lakers lost for the 15th time in 17 games.

Bryant sat in street clothes on the Lakers' bench while Durant and Westbrook quickly took control for Oklahoma City.

Facing the inexperienced Brown, Durant went 5 of 7 from the field in the first half and hit both of his 3-point attempts. His first came a little more than 3 minutes into the game to cap an 8-0 Thunder run.

Durant scored 14 first-quarter points to help the Thunder lead 35-15 at the quarter's end. The Thunder had seven dunks in the first half, three of them alley-oops from Westbrook to Steven Adams. Meanwhile, the Lakers threw five passes out of bounds, and the Thunder led 67-41 at halftime.

The Lakers came no closer than 25 points in the second half and Westbrook and Durant spent the entire fourth quarter on the bench.

Los Angeles coach Byron Scott said the Lakers looked "scared" and "intimidated" against Oklahoma City.

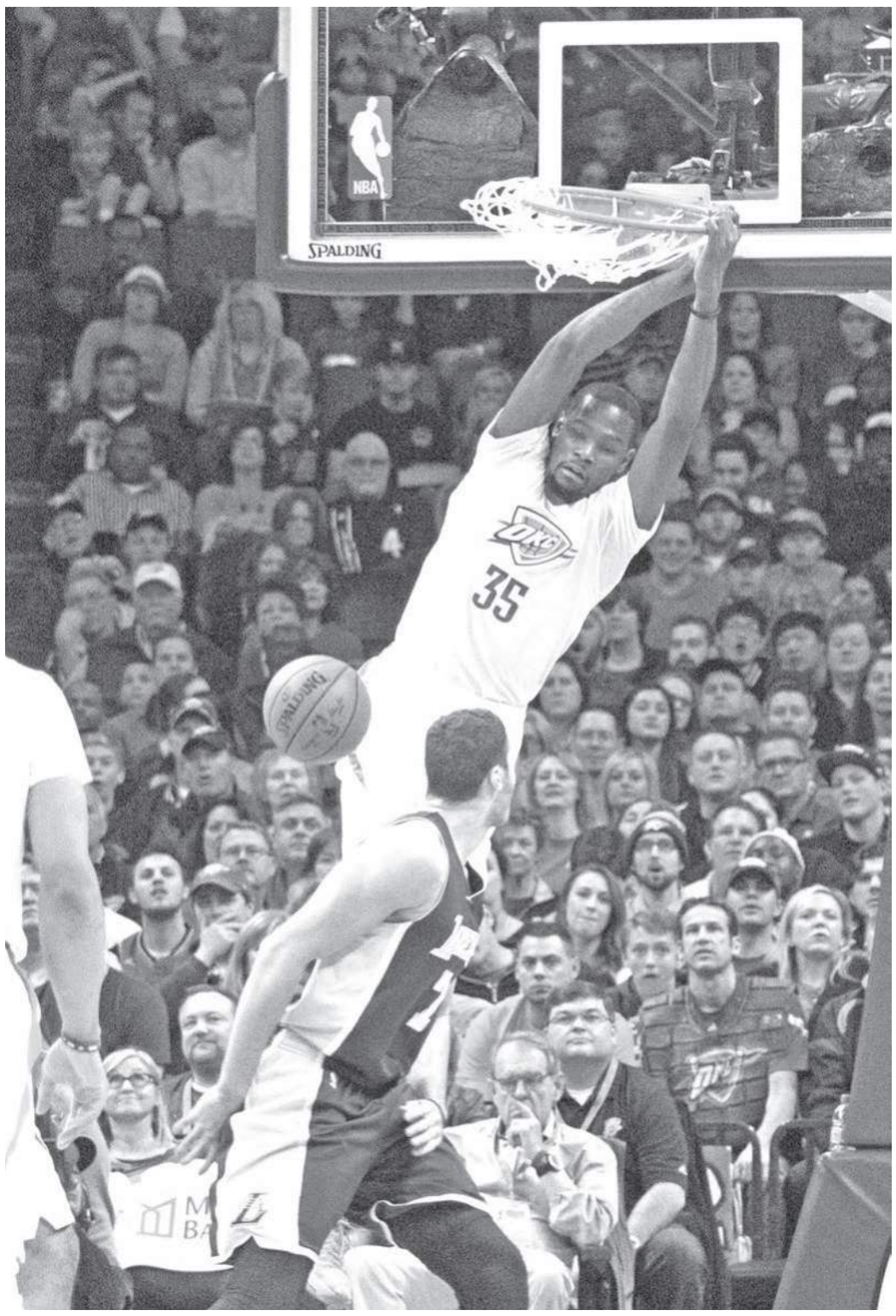
"The guys on the court have to learn from it," Scott said. "They didn't play well at all and really just got embarrassed by the way we played tonight. Like I told them, I said it was pathetic in every area. We didn't come to compete. They just played harder than we did. It just looked like we were in awe of that team."

The Lakers announced about 90 minutes before the game that Bryant wouldn't play due to the sore shoulder. Bryant said afterward he'd played through the pain "the last couple of games ... but this morning, I got up and it was pretty sore."

The 37-year-old Bryant dunked for the first time this season on Thursday night against the Houston Rockets. He said he thought the injury happened before that but added "I'm sure that didn't help."

The soreness was in the same shoulder in which Bryant suffered a torn rotator cuff last season. But he doesn't think it will be a long-term problem and expects to play on Tuesday night against the Denver Nuggets.

"That was pretty heavy-duty surgery I had this summer, so I think it's kind of logical to expect it to be sore at some point," Bryant said. "I've just got to get ahead of it, just rest it and come back."



AP

Los Angeles Lakers forward Larry Nance Jr. (7) watches as Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) dunks during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Saturday, Dec. 19, 2015

Even on the bench, Bryant remained the focus of conversation. Durant had dinner with Bryant on Friday night and said before the game that Bryant's 20-year NBA run, all with one team, was "the type of career you want to have when you come into this league.

"For a guy to finish the way he wants to finish, more than half his life as an NBA player, that's an accomplishment in itself," Durant said. "If he would've never won championships or MVPs, he still played 20 years in this league. It's amazing. Not too many people can say that."

Knicks 107, Bulls 91

In New York, Carmelo Anthony scored 27 points and the New York Knicks beat the weary Chicago Bulls 107-91 on Saturday night for their fourth straight victory.

A night after losing a four-overtime game in Chicago, the Bulls started well and had a strong third quarter, but the rest of the night mostly belonged to the Knicks.

Arron Afflalo added 18 points for New York, which got back to .500 at 14-14 after winning just 17 games last season. Lance Thomas scored 13 off the bench.

Joakim Noah had a season-high 21 points for the Bulls in his first start of the season. Rookie forward Bobby Portis had the best night of his brief career with 20 points and 11 rebounds.

Rockets 107, Clippers 97

In Houston, Dwight Howard had 22 points and 14 rebounds and Houston built a huge lead early and rolled to a 107-97 win over Los Angeles.

Houston led by as many as 26 points in the first half and was up by 12 after three quarters. The Rockets opened the fourth with an 8-2 run to make it 91-73. Marcus Thornton highlighted that spurt when he drove into the lane, evaded Blake Griffin and finished with a layup.

Houston pushed the lead to 95-76 with about 7 1/2 minutes left when Howard blocked a shot by Austin Rivers, and Trevor Ariza grabbed the ball and dished it to Howard, who finished with a dunk on the other end.

The starters for both teams sat down a few minutes after that.

Grizzlies 96, Pacers 84

In Memphis, Marc Gasol had 19 points and 12 rebounds, Matt Barnes finished with 15 points and 10 rebounds and Memphis beat Indiana.

Mike Conley added 20 points and eight assists as the Grizzlies snapped a two-game skid. Mario Chalmers had 12 points for Memphis and Jeff Green added 11.

Paul George led the Pacers with 29 points, despite going 8 of 22 from the field. Monta Ellis scored 13 points and Rodney Stuckey had 11 points. Jordan Hill finished with 10 points and 13 rebounds.

The loss snapped Indiana's three-game winning streak.

Wizards 109, Hornets 101

In Washington, John Wall had 27 points and 12 assists, Garrett Temple scored a career-high 21 points and Washington beat Charlotte.

Wall scored 20 points in the first half and then drilled a key jumper with just over 2 minutes left in the game after the Hornets nearly erased a 15-point deficit. Cody Zeller's layup cut the lead to 99-98 with 2:24 to play.

Jared Dudley matched a season high with 19 points and Marcin Gortat had 18 points for Washington.

Kemba Walker led Charlotte with 18 points, and Jeremy Lin had 15.

In the teams' first meeting of the season, the Wizards scored just six points in the fourth quarter in a 101-87 loss on Nov. 25.

SIDEBAR

Cavs star guard Irving will make season debut vs 76ers

CLEVELAND (AP)—Kyrie Irving's long road to recovery has reached the end. All the pain, the grueling hours of rehab, the unceasing wait is finally over for the Cavaliers' star point guard.

He can play again.

"I'm back," he wrote on Twitter on Saturday.

Irving will make his season debut on Sunday against the Philadelphia 76ers, returning to the floor for the first time since breaking his left kneecap in Game 1 of the NBA Finals.

More than six months since he crumpled to the floor while trying to make a move against Golden State, Irving will be back in uniform for the Cavs, who aren't the same team without the 23-year-old.

Irving has felt nerves before games, but none like the ones he's certain to have as he completes his comeback.

"This is kind of a new chapter," he said following practice. "It'll be a different experience, but just the amount of practice, the amount of time I put in, the amount of work that is coming to fruition and I'm just excited that it can happen now."

Irving had been expected to come back earlier this week, but he said there were still some medical hurdles to overcome and he and the Cavs, who started the season 17-7 without him, wanted to make sure he was 100 percent.

"I've been ready to play, but biomechanically, we just wanted to make sure everything was good so I'm not putting myself at higher risk to go out there and get hurt again," he said.

"Our staff did an unbelievable job of getting me prepared, going through the long rigorous months of kind of being down and out, getting hurt in Game 1 of the Finals and now, here we are, almost six, going on seven months, and now I'm back and ready to play, so I feel good."

Irving said he has had to learn patience during his ordeal.

"You wouldn't wish injury on anybody, just going through those months, just being a prisoner of your own emotions and thoughts, that's the hardest thing and getting yourself out of it and thinking about what's the goal and task that's important to you," he said. "Life will hit you with a whole bunch of punches at once and you gotta withstand it.

"You gotta persevere and I'm glad that I'm at this point. I'll probably go home and let all my emotions out, but I'm pretty excited to be back out there with my brothers."

Irving said his minutes will be restricted as he eases his way back. He needs to improve his conditioning and strength. He won't take the court looking to make up for lost time.

"It's not like I'm coming in and just trying to take 15 to 20 shots right after I come off injury," he said. "For me, it's just trying to jell back in and continue to play the right way. My basketball knowledge, I'm pretty confident in coming in and not trying to overdo it in any single way and just be aggressive.

"The guys continue to give me confidence. If they feel I'm being lackadaisical out there, they'll tell me, just like I would expect them. They expect me to play at a high level and I expect myself to as well."

Club World Cup Final: Neymar hoping for redemption

YOKOHAMA, Japan—Pep Guardiola's all-conquering Barcelona is taking on Brazil's most iconic club—the Santos of Pele and Carlos Alberto.

The Santos of Neymar. Teenage sensation Neymar. 'Future Ballon d'Or winner' Neymar.

This was a clash billed as Neymar versus Lionel Messi. The apprentice versus the master. The Brazilian pretender to the Argentine throne. Neymar, some said, was ready to show the world that he was Messi's equal. It didn't quite work out that way.

Barcelona won 4-0. Messi was mesmerising, his two goals bookending a masterclass from a breathtakingly beautiful - and devastatingly brutal - team at their peak.

The broken leg sustained by David Villa in the semi-final led to Guardiola fielding a 4-6-0 formation. Never has a team without a recognised striker looked so potent. Never has Neymar looked so impotent.

AP

Barcelona has a full strength team to call upon against River Plate after Lionel Messi, right, and Neymar, center, were passed fit.

The spindly 19-year-old Santos talisman, with his bleached blond Mohican and nosestrip and luminous yellow boots, could only look on as Messi and co ran riot.

After the game, Neymar gushed: "Barcelona taught us what it is to really play football. They are a machine. They were superior to us and we faced fantastic footballers. We've managed to be crowned the second-best team in the world and if you lose to a team like Barca then second best means something."

Four years on, Guardiola is gone. Xavi and Cesc Fabregas, Barcelona's other goalscorers in the 2011 final, are gone. Tiki-taka is gone.

Messi remains, of course. Barcelona were defined by Messi then, and they are defined by Messi now. But this is a new Barcelona.

To borrow Neymar's description, they are still a "machine". But the days of Barca playing without a recognised forward have long gone. This is the Barca of Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar. MSN.

The Catalans proved capable of overcoming Guangzhou Evergrande in the semi-finals without two of their big three, as Messi suffered from renal colic and Neymar battled a groin problem.

The Brazilian is no longer a teenage tyro. He is 23, captain of his country, a Ballon d'Or finalist alongside Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.

Neymar is the scorer of 16 goals in 18 appearances in all competitions this season. The man who, aided and abetted by Suarez, relished being Messi's stand-in as Barca's main man when the Argentinian missed almost two months with a knee injury.

The blond Mohican has gone. He's still spindly, and the outlandishly coloured boots remain. But Neymar means business. He won't win the Ballon d'Or this time around - Messi is the overwhelming favourite to take the prize for a fifth time, but he's getting closer.

When asked about Neymar and his memories of the 2011 final by FIFA.com last week, Messi replied: "A lot of time's gone by since then and I've witnessed his enormous growth, both as a footballer and as a person. Back then he was already a really great player and now he's even more so, he's much more complete. Truthfully, it's a pleasure and a privilege to have him alongside us now."

On Sunday, Neymar could finally get another chance to dazzle in Yokohama, now wearing, rather than chasing, the famous Blaugrana shirt.

And this time, should both men recover from their fitness issues, he'll have idol Messi on his side. River Plate had better watch out.

Mourinho wants immediate coaching return after Chelsea exit

LONDON (AP) — Jose Mourinho wants an immediate return to management after being fired by Chelsea.

The Portuguese coach used a statement issued Saturday through his management company to emphasize his enduring enthusiasm and passion for soccer and revealed that he will remain living in London.

"He will not be taking a sabbatical, he isn't tired, he doesn't need it, he is very positive, and is already looking forward," the CAA Sports statement said. "Jose hopes that his future after Chelsea this time will be as successful as when he left the club in 2007."

Mourinho won the Champions League, Serie A and Italian Cup at Inter Milan and then the league and Copa del Rey with Real Madrid before returning to Chelsea in 2013.

And the 52-year-old Mourinho seemed to be issuing a reminder to future employers when the statement stressed: "During his career, Jose has sometimes chosen to leave a club, but only at Chelsea has the club decided that he should leave."

Mourinho's second spell at Stamford Bridge ended on Thursday, with Chelsea having lost nine of its first 16 league matches this season after sweeping to the title by eight points in May.

"Jose Mourinho is pleased that he returned to Chelsea football club because he was able to give the fans another Premier League title," the statement said.

As Guus Hiddink completed a deal to return to Chelsea as manager until the end of the season, Mourinho was watching a second-tier match between Brighton and Middlesbrough on Saturday. Middlesbrough is managed by Aitor Karanka, who was Mourinho's assistant at Madrid.

"Because of his love of football, you will see Jose at football grounds working and supporting friends," the statement added. "He will not be attending any high-profile games because he wants to discourage any speculation about his future."

ACS

From Page 28

tance runner Jack Kabiriel as one of its members.

Team Force Awaken—which had Mike Mancao, Dino Manning, and Robin Sapong teaming up with Eda and Ngirchongor—came in third at 1:37:50.

ACS Team 1 was comfortably ahead against two other teams and even widened the gap after its runner passed by I Love Saipan. Chen Bai Ling, however, made a wrong turn to Smiling Cove Marina and took the road near the Army Reserve, allowing the two teams behind ACS Team 1 to overtake the eventual winners. The error cost Chen and company three minutes and the lead.

Northern Marianas Athletics officials chased Chen to inform him of his mistake.

"Good thing Chen recovered and caught up with the two teams. When Caleb took his turn, he managed to widen the gap again," ACS principal Jimeian Pang told Saipan Tribune.

"This kids train almost every day, they ran uphill. They run five times back and forth from ACS going up to Navy Hill and in the final descent they head towards American Memorial Park," added Pang.

Chen Haoyu, Jasong Wang Shengen, and Samuel Hu En Ze are the other members of ACS Team 1.

ACS Team 2, which had Bobby Zhang, Leo Li Yisheng, Henry Hu En Jie, Jonah Chen Du Yang, and Jonathan Xiong Lue as members—placed third in the youth division (1:41:48) behind Saipan Swim Club (1:31:20) and Rinty FC (1:39:19).

Meanwhile, Taro Goto (1:40:37), Sakiko Eda (1:40:50), Tami Nishikido (1:52:15), Jerry Jaraplasan (1:45:55), and Rommel Buenaflor (1:52:31) were the solo runners in that race that started at the south parking lot of Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio and ended at the Last Command Post in Marpi.

WSR

From Page 28

and they did, as Lizama made a volley. The Knights attempted to tie the match, but Jin Ho Park's kick was way too wide to the right corner. WSR then gained more cushion in the next play, as Bergancia's shot hit the top corner of the post and then dropped in.

Behind by two, Mt. Carmel must convert its next penalty attempt to stay alive and Richard Steele was tasked to deliver the pressure-packed shot. He let go of the kick with the ball heading straight up to the center and Fajardo catching it. However, Fajardo's save was nullified, as he stepped forward even before Steele kicked the ball.

The MCS striker had another chance and unloaded a similar shot, but again Fajardo's quick hands and feet prevailed, as he caught the ball for the second straight time.

"I was a bit worried after I made the error (moving forward early). But, I kept reminding myself I have to remain focused and watch where the ball is going," Fajardo told *Saipan Tribune* after the title-clinching catch.

Fajardo and the rest of the WSR players and coaching staff were presented with the championship and perpetual trophies after the victory in the shootout.

The title was second for the Kingfishers and they tied Saipan Community School with the most championships in the boys division. WSR's other title was won in 2012, whole SCS got the two crowns in back-to-back fashion (2009 and 2010). Koblerville was the inaugural boys champion in the league in 2008, while Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School hoisted the coveted trophy in 2011 and Whispering Palms and SIS had their turns in 2013 and 2014, respectively.

"When we lost to SIS last season, the players and coaching staff were obviously disappointed so coming into the 2016 season, we were motivated to get into the finals again to have a chance to win the championship this time," WSR coach Ray Aguon said.

"When the game went into a shootout, I was as nervous as my players were. But we can't do anything about that pressure, so we just had to go and try our best. I am glad the boys delivered."

MJD

From Page 28

in the opening canto to give their team a 9-point cushion, while only Ariel Abadilla made more than one field goal for CES in the first frame. He had 6 points, while Olan Tengco, Dick Tibayan, Ferdie Tobias, and Sonny Ebuen contributed 2 points each.

CES was paired against the No. 1 seed MJD after finishing the regular season at eighth place with its 1-7 record. MJD is unbeaten in the round-robin regular season and is highly favored to advance to the semifinals along with three other squads that joined them at the Top 4—Blue Haus (7-1), Armatech (5-3), and GMJ/IKKI (5-3).

Blue Haus will be challenging VM Production (2-6), while Armatech and GMJ/IKKI will be facing KB Market (4-4) and Erika's Catering Ferrera Builders (4-4), respectively.

Meanwhile, since the MJD-CES playoff tiff was rained-out, league organizers were also forced to reset the semis tiff between Maplas and Islander in the Open division. The new schedule will be announced later and the winner of the last Final Four pairing will duel MJD Enterprise for the east division crown. MJD was the early finalist after eliminating Ask Y U B a couple of weeks ago, while Maplas sneaked into the semis after pulling off an upset against the Sonics. Islander eased past Triple J to march into the Final Four.

In the west division, there are still four teams left. GMJ/IKKI and PIC played in the first semis match last Tuesday, but their game was also rained-out early in the third period with the opposing squads in a deadlock, 36-all. In the other semis pairing, it will be Cholos 8th Division versus Blue Haus, which knocked out Ferrera Builders and Armatech, respectively.

SSC Double Distance Meet

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru checks on the other swimmers after completing the 800m freestyle race in the SSC Double Distance Meet held last Dec. 12 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Saipan Swim Club's Lennosuke Suzuki joins the 100m freestyle event.

A Saipan Swim Club member competes in the 100m freestyle race.

Saipan Swim Club and Tsunami Saipan swimmers plunge into the pool during the 100m freestyle event.

Saipan Swim Club's Wataru Kadokura adjusts his cap after completing a race.

Saipan Swim Club head coach Jacoby Winkfield talks to his swimmers after the competition.

Volunteer timers wait for the swimmers to touch the wall.

Participants in the boys over 17 100m freestyle race get ready at the starting block.

Tsunami Saipan swimmers cheer for their teammates.

Jets top Cowboys, keep pressure on in AFC wild card

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Sports

Durant leads Thunder over Bryant-less Lakers

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ACS Team 1 upsets favorites

JON PEREZ

Agape Christian School Caleb Wang, center, celebrates with his teammates as they near the finish line of last Saturday's 34th Annual Christmas Island Relay that ended at the Last Command Post in Marpi.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Agape Christian School's Team 1 overcame a slight confusion on the race course and a cool morning weather (73ºF) to rule the Open division and complete an upset in the 34th Christmas Island Relay held last Saturday.

ACS fielded two teams in its debut in the annual relay running event with its squads made up of youth runners that competed in the All Schools Cross Country Race and have an average age of 16 years old. Its Team 1 eventually bested the 22 other squads that joined the race, including favored teams built around CNMI national athletes Beo Ngirchongor and Seiya Eda.

With reigning Cross Country boys U18 champion Caleb Wang as the lead runner, ACS Team 1 completed the 13.7-mile (22 kilometers) in 1:29:42—a good 1:23 ahead of Get Fit CNMI "Darkhorse" (1:31:05) which had veteran long dis-

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MJD leads CES in rained-out match

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Top-ranked MJD Enterprise is ahead in its rained-out playoff match against CES Electronics, 27-23, in the masters division of the 2015 San Antonio Community Action Network Basketball League last Thursday night at the San Antonio court.

The game will resume next week as the league will take a break beginning this Wednesday to give way to the holiday season. MJD will have the possession with still 8:49 left in the second quarter.

MJD once held a 24-15 advantage at the start of the second frame before CES Electronics outgunned the former 8-2, in the opening minutes of that period. Henry De Jesus sparked the short rally, knocking in back-to-back triples, while Bert Dacumos scored the 2 other points. Jun Alipio nailed MJD's lone field goal so far in the second canto.

Alipio earlier tallied 6 points, while Randy Mungcal registered 7 to give MJD a good start. Five other MJD players hit the board

See MJD on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MJD Enterprise's Randy Mungcal pulls up for a jumper against CES Electronics' Dante Tabora during their regular season game in the masters division of the San Antonio caging last month at the San Antonio court.

WSR beats MCS in shootout

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

William S. Reyes Elementary School took the boys championship in the 2015 NMIFA U12 Interscholastic Football League after outgunning Mt. Carmel School in a shootout, 3-1, last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Jim Maniago, Wayne Lizama, and Anthony Bergancia knocked in the needed goals for WSR, while goalie Oliver Fajardo made the title-clinching catch to give the Kingfishers the championship that eluded the team last year. WSR lost to Saipan International School in last season's finale, 1-2.

In this year's finals, WSR and MCS engaged in a shootout after a scoreless draw in regulation. The opposing squads were also given 15 minutes in overtime to break the standoff, but neither could cash in on the extra period, making the shootout the deciding factor in the winner-take-all finale.

The Knights' made the first attempt with Merrick Toves canning a right corner shot. Maniago was next and he equalized for WSR with his upper 90 to the right against MCS goalkeeper Juan Guerrero going in. Mt. Carmel returned to the penalty area, but Jeremiah Diaz overshot his mark with the ball going above the top center of the crossbar.

With Diaz missing, the Kingfishers had the chance to grab the lead

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A William S. Reyes Elementary School player is surrounded by Mt. Carmel School defenders during the first half of their title game in the boys division of the 2015 NMIFA U12 Interscholastic Football League last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.